THE Valley INDEPENDENT
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Grab among best

Santonio Holmes' catch is one of the most memorable in Super Bowl history. **1B**

Continuing PRIDE

It is on an isolated back road, but Cheplic Packing Inc. has built a strong customer base. **1C**

INSIDE TODAY

Valley Business

A weak economy leads many people to the funeral services business. **2C**

Vecchione now 100

Lena Vecchione was only 20 years old when she left her native Paganica, Italy, for the United States. **3A**

Big Ben gets offer

A woman who has sued Ben Roethlisberger would drop her complaint if he acknowledges rape and apologizes, her attorney said. **8A**

SPORTS

Opener Thursday

The Steelers and Titans are ready to open the season. **1B**

Standard set

The Bucs have set another futility record. **2B**

Nadal advances

If Rafael Nadal was hurting, it didn't show. If he was vulnerable, it didn't last. **2B**

DEATHS

- Michael R. (Becky) Beckovich Sr., 92, Monongahela, formerly of Clairton and Mt. Lebanon
- Dolores "Babe" Spada, 77, Charleroi
- James Kenneth Wherry, 89, Monessen

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WEATHER

Tonight Mostly cloudy 57°
Tomorrow Partly sunny 69°

Page 2A

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Three sections, 18 Pages

TOMORROW

Don't miss Valley Entertainment, a regular Thursday feature in *The Valley Independent.*

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Fayette eyes Fridays off

The union is trying to minimize the effect of the state budget impasse.

By MARY PICKELS
For The Valley Independent
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UNIONTOWN – Fayette County employees who are members of Service Employees International Union Local 668 are expected to vote Friday on a proposal that essentially calls for shutting down county operations one Friday per pay period.

"It would affect everyone across the board, from the commissioners down to the janitors – every department," said Rose Cindrick, union business agent.

After a meeting of union members Tuesday night, Cindrick said she intended to present the proposal to county commissioners today.

"I think that would be more fair and effective for all employees," said Pam Johnston, chief steward.

Last week, county commissioners Vincent Zapotosky and Vincent Vicites said they wanted nonessential employees and elected officials – including themselves – to take pay cuts so that funding can be diverted to human-services programs until a state budget is passed.

They met with department heads and row officers to discuss contingency plans to maintain transportation, child and mental-health programs during the budget stalemate.

One contingency plan calls for most of the county's 500-plus employees to work 30 hours weekly instead of the current 37.5. Employees would be required to take two unpaid days off per biweekly pay period, but the courthouse and other county agencies would remain open five days per week.

(See FRIDAYS, Page 2A)

N. Belle Vernon worker honored

He fought off a large dog that was attacking two residents and their small pets.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
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NORTH BELLE VERNON – Council recognized a borough employee Tuesday who fought off a vicious dog as it attacked and severely injured two residents and their dog.

Public works employee William Campbell responded to screams from John and Kim Gido, of 500 Speer St., as they were being mauled the morning of Aug. 29 near their home.

A large dog weighing more than 100 pounds owned by Arch Street resident Joe Naylor broke loose from its residence.

Campbell was at the borough garage about a block away when a resident told him about the attack.

The animal originally went after Gido's two small dogs as he was walking them just feet from his residence, according to police Chief James Bedsworth.

John Gido was bitten on his right hand while he tried to protect his dogs, Bedsworth said.

Gido's wife, Kim, was bitten on her arm and back when she tried to help her husband, Bedsworth said.

The Gido's white Maltese, Holly, suffered multiple puncture wounds on her back.

Campbell said he had been fighting off the dog with a sledgehammer handle for just under 10 minutes when Bedsworth arrived.

The chief shot and killed the dog after it repeatedly attacked.

At a meeting Tuesday, Council President Dennis Simboli presented Campbell with a plaque and thanked him for "an act of heroism."

Kim Gido, who brought Holly to the council meeting wrapped in a towel, sobbed and hugged Campbell shortly after he received the award.

Walking back to their house, the Gidos expressed thanks for Campbell's response.

"I don't have any words to explain how grateful I am. I just thank him every time I see him," John Gido said.

Kim Gido said Campbell saved her life.

"I thought we were doing to die. This dog just was not stopping," she said. "I looked at Mr. Campbell, and I'd seen fear in his eyes. It bit me four times. I ache everywhere."

Campbell said he was relieved that he was able to intervene before it was too late.

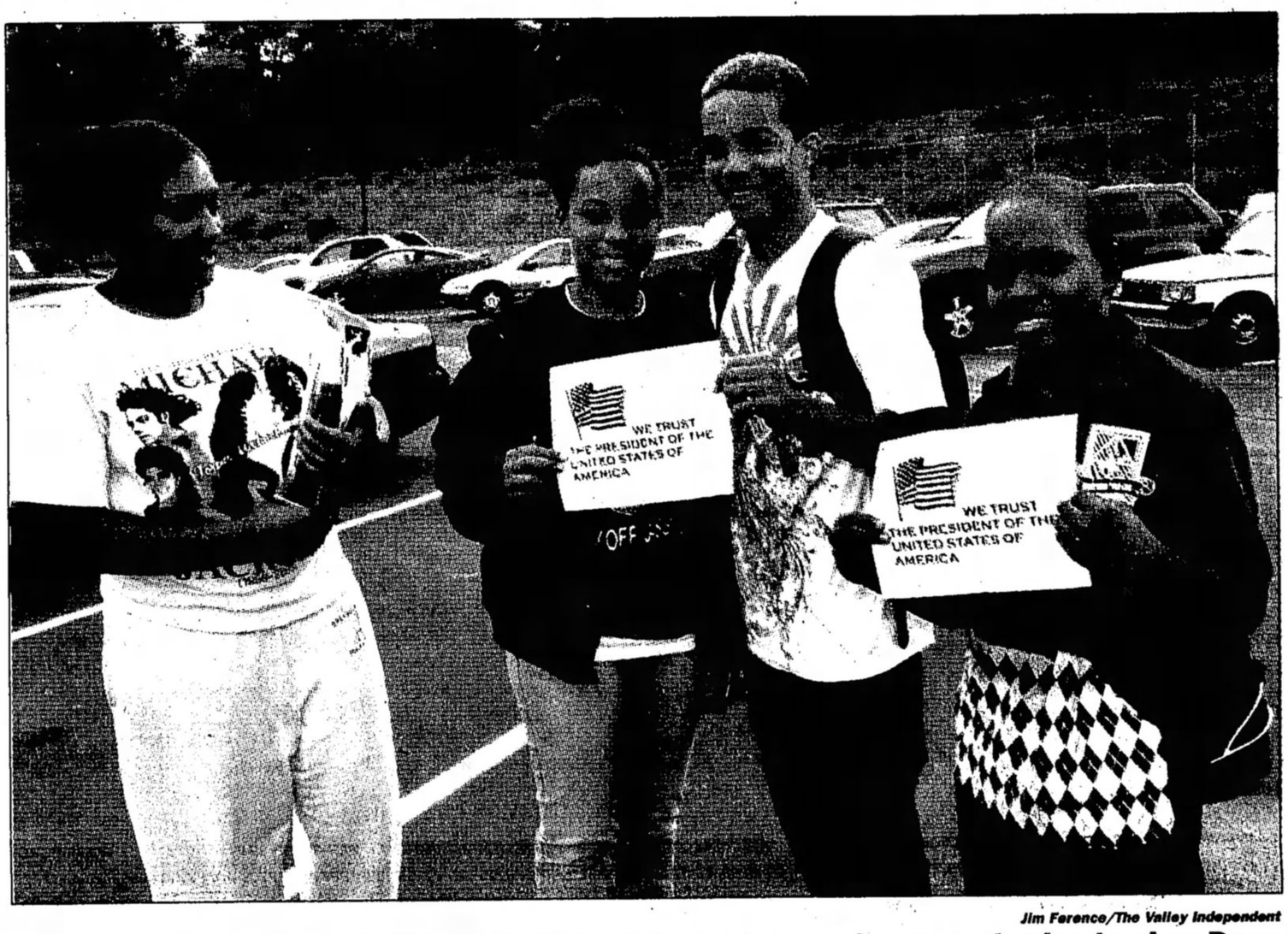
"I'm just glad I was there to help them because there's no way in hell they could have done that by themselves," he said.

A dog officer with the Fayette County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals took the dog that attacked in for an examination.

Bedsworth said the dog tested negative for rabies.

He said the attack was the third

(See HONORED, Page 2A)



Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

A number of Monessen Middle/High School students went home yesterday to view President Barack Obama's message to children. The school district did not air the broadcast live. Waiting to leave, from left, are senior Te'Querre Turner, junior Chantal Turner, sophomore Sam Dickerson and seventh-grader Adrise Jackson.

Obama speech decision irks Monessen parents

Superintendent Dr. Cynthia Chelen's hard day's night started early and ended late.

By JEFF OLIVER and STACY WOLFORD
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MONESSEN – In the end, it appears that the question of whether or not to show President Barack Obama's speech to the nation's school children resulted in a lose-lose proposition for Superintendent Dr. Cindy Chelen.

Reacting to numerous calls from parents complaining they did not want their children to see the speech, Chelen opted to not show it live Tuesday and tape it for those who wanted to see it later.

However, that decision did not sit well with many parents who viewed the speech as a part of history and wanted their children to see the message live.

Several parents showed up at the middle/high school Tuesday morning after 11 a.m. to take their children home to see the speech.

A spokesperson yesterday said 10 students were taken out of the school before the speech.

At least one parent said she was going to bring her children back to school after the nationally-televised message by the president was over.

The president spoke in favor of education, how it can make a difference and told children to stay in school and learn.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WOES

Monessen parents who pulled their children from school were disappointed with Chelen's decision.

"It's history," said Marva Jackson, who took her son and grandson out of school to watch the speech live at home as a family.

(See OBAMA, Page 2A)

President urges hard work

The chief executive used his own life as an example of how to succeed.

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA – Children from coast to coast watched on classroom TVs and computer screens Tuesday as President Barack Obama spoke to them.

Others did not hear the message at all, either because their parents pulled from them from class or their schools refused to carry the speech over complaints from conservative groups and others that it smacked of political indoctrination.

In his speech, which aired on C-SPAN and the White House Web site, Obama used examples from his own life to urge students to study hard. He told them to stop chasing dreams of being athletes or reality TV stars.

"The truth is, being successful is hard. You won't love every subject you study. You won't click

(See WORK, Page 2A)

Man, 71, allegedly peddled pills on bike trail

William Gilliam Foster is being held in the Westmoreland County Prison.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
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A 71-year-old Smithton man has been accused of selling prescription drugs along the bike trail in Rostraver Township and in front of the Smithton fire hall.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by state police Cpl. Dennis Ulery, William Gilliam Foster, of 321 Riverside Drive, was arrested at 11:20 a.m. Sept. 1 along the bike trail.

Ulery said he and Cpl. Kenneth Munshower had received several reports that Foster had been selling pills near a pavilion along the trail.

Police found Foster at that location in possession of $350 in cash and more than 50 Xanax, Endocet and Roxicodone pills. Some of the pills were hidden in a zipper mesh compartment of his hat, police allege.

Foster also had a prescription in the name of Jeffrey Poland filled Aug. 31 for 30 mg of oxycodone pills.

Foster was charged with three felony and four misdemeanor violations of the controlled substance act.

Magisterial District Judge Charles Christner, of West Newton, arraigned Foster on Friday and sent him to Westmoreland County Prison in lieu of $25,000 straight cash bond.

A preliminary hearing before Christner is scheduled 9 a.m. Monday.

VALLEY PEOPLE

Honored (FROM PAGE ONE)

time in the last two months Naylor's dog attacked small dogs.

Bedsworth said Naylor has been issued nine citations in relation to the three attacks.

He said Naylor's dog was not properly confined and did not have a license or rabies vaccinations.

In an unrelated matter, council decided to request a meeting with auditing firm Cypher & Cypher to discuss the cost of a 2008 audit.

The firm charged the borough $13,800 for the audit.

The board paid about $5,500 for the prior year's audit. Council tabled payment of the bill.

Councilwoman Heather Prinkey said many more hours had to be spent on the 2008 audit.

But, Simboli and other board members disagreed with the cost.

Fridays (FROM PAGE ONE)

Zapotsky and Vicites said they preferred that option to another plan involving layoffs.

Excluding salaries of essential employees, county Controller Sean Lally estimated 30-hour weeks would produce a savings of 20 percent per payroll, or $117,757. If a state budget is not passed by the end of the year, seven payrolls would be affected, beginning Oct. 2, for a total savings of $824,298.

Vicites and Zapotosky said some county departments are 90 percent funded by the state – meaning the county must find alternative revenue sources to maintain them. They said one department, Children and Youth Services, has been loaned $1.5 million from the county's general fund to maintain services in lieu of state money.

Essential employees, including prison guards and 911 dispatchers, would be exempt from the changes, commissioners said. Their proposal calls for elected row officers and the commissioners to take the unpaid days off along with nonessential employees.

Zapotosky, Vicites and Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink attended a portion of the meeting last night.

"We want to know what their ideas are," Zapotosky said before the meeting. "We are the policymakers at the end. We feel for them. We also will take part in any reduction of hours."

"We want to know what they are willing to do, what their wishes are," Vicites said prior to the meeting, "We will put together a plan that will be voted on publicly."

After the meeting, Zapotosky said, "I respect the decision made by the SEIU and, of course, I will look at it very carefully and offer it consideration."

He said one concern is that county operations won't be shut down.

"I give them credit for wanting this to be a shared responsibility," he said. "It is a good indication they recognize the severity of the issue."

Vicites said he would prefer to see the proposal in its entirety before judging.

"As a general rule," he said, "I tried to keep the county government open at all times for the public – administrative and judicial."

"I appreciate our employees wanting to help," Vicites said. "This shows how dedicated they are."

Zimmerlink could not be reached for comment last night.

Zimmerlink said earlier she won't support a plan that would reduce county services or staff in order to "front funds for state-funded services."

She said county agencies directly affected by the stalemate should prepare their clients for reduction in services and lobby Harrisburg to cut "their wasteful spending – which is documented – to realize substantial, already available revenue."

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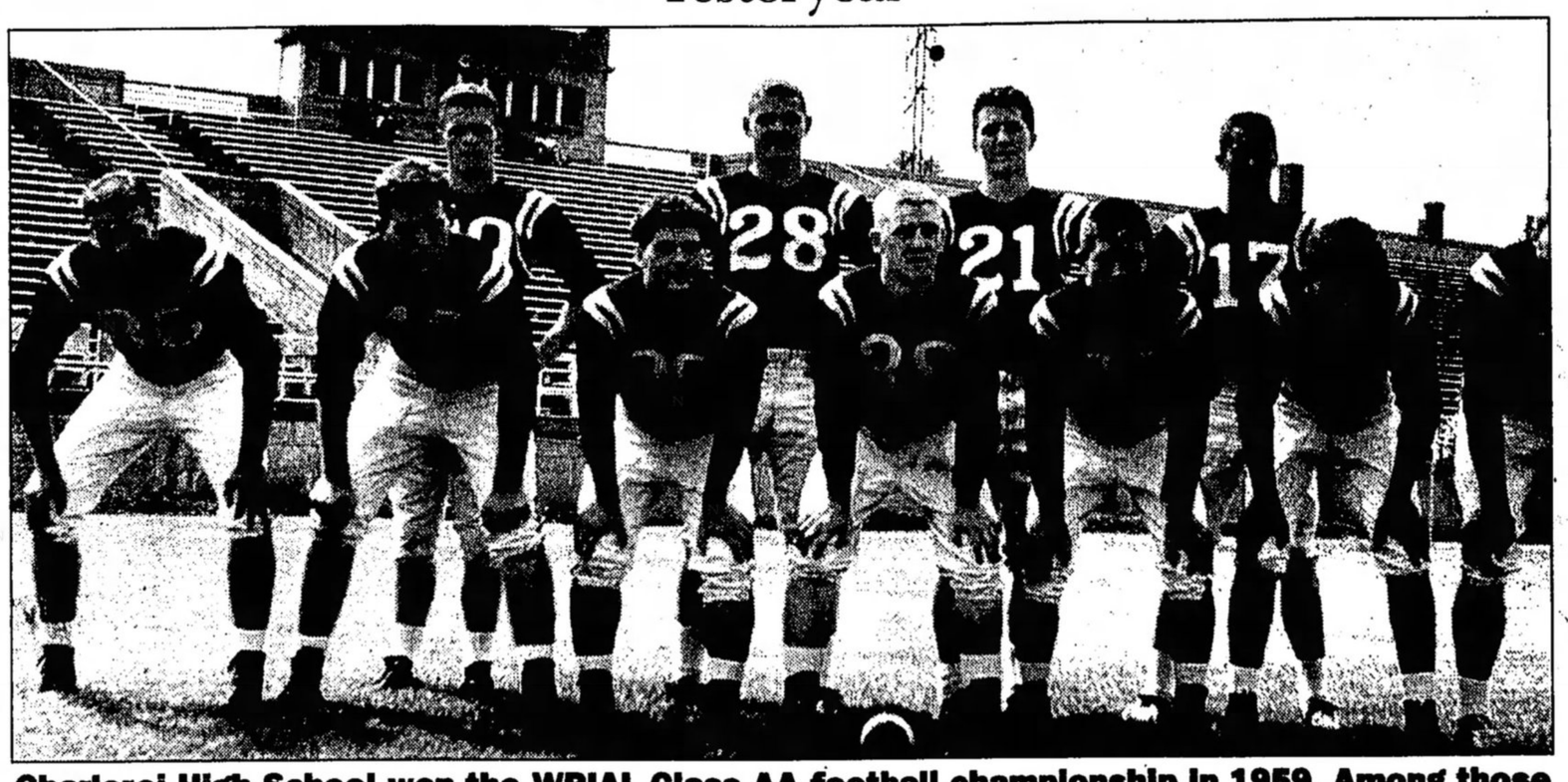


Charleroi High School won the WPIAL Class AA football championship in 1959. Among those playing for the 11-0-0 Cougars were: Front row from left, Bob King, Bill Raisbeck, Bill Johnson, Dennis Harger, Dallas Cosgrove, Bob Sink and Pete Golmarac; back row, Bob Hodgson, Mickey Bitsko, Gary Hogan and Paul Strelick.

If you have a good oldtime photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High 69	High 70	High 78	High 80	High 79
Low 53	Low 55	Low 57	Low 59	Low 59

Work (FROM PAGE ONE)

with every teacher. Not every homework assignment will seem completely relevant to your life right this minute. And you won't necessarily succeed at everything the first time you try," Obama said.

Other presidents, including Republicans Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, delivered similar speeches to students, but some conservatives accused Obama of trying to promote his policies, and they urged schools and parents to boycott the address. Florida Republican Party chairman Jim Greer initially called the speech an attempt to "spread President Obama's socialist ideology."

The Department of Education was also criticized for proposed lesson plans distributed to accompany the speech, including a section — later changed — that asked students to write about how they could help the president.

Schools were not required to show the speech, and the White House posted an advance transcript on its Web site on Monday. After they got a look at the text, many critics, including Greer, backed off, and some schools agreed to show the speech after all.

Still, others were glad they kept their kids out of class.

"They don't need to be told by the president what their responsibilities are. It's the parents' responsibility to teach them that, not the government," said Ryan Christensen, a carpet cleaner who asked that his 10-year-old daughter be pulled from a fifth-grade class watching the speech in Caldwell, Idaho.

In Marietta, Ga., the elementary school that Mollie Cushing's two daughters attend chose not to air the president's address. And that was just fine with Cushing.

"We're not really happy with the way the country is right now, so I don't have real warm fuzzies about the whole thing," said Cushing, a stay-at-home mom and Republican.

Obama (FROM PAGE ONE)

"It's the first time in presidential being that (school administrators) stopped the president from speaking to the students.

"This is history. What do they think (Obama) will say? He's going to speak for education, for staying in school."

The Rev. Terry Davis, pastor of Newness of Life Ministries, said he was offended because he had to go to school, pick up his son to go home for the speech and then take him back to school.

"For me to have to do that is totally unacceptable and also borderline irresponsible," Davis said.

Davis thought he could watch the speech at school with his son, but was told it was not being shown at all.

"For a few parents to have the power to cause our superintendent to decide not to show the speech is simply not right," Davis said.

"Monessen is a Democratic community. How could there be enough people in this town to complain against hearing a Democratic president to get the superintendent to not show it?

"I have never heard of something like that. To be honest, it leaves me to feel this was racially motivated."

Another parent, Christina Turner, was pulling her two children out. She said it was a mistake to deny children the chance to listen to the nation's leader on live television.

"I think it's very important to hear the speech now and not on a pre-recorded message," Turner said. "This is history for our children, and they should be allowed to experience it."

Jackson said she wasn't pulling her kids out for a free half-day of classes.

"We're going to watch it as a family with our children, and when it's over I will be bringing them back to school," she said.

Into the night

Parents continued to pressure Chelen on Tuesday evening at a Monessen School Board meeting.

More than 20 parents turned out to tell school officials they made a mistake by not airing the president's speech.

"I feel they were deprived of a special moment not being able to watch the president's live speech with their fellow youth," said Sheila Davis, the pastor's wife.

The school board and Chelen spent nearly an hour listening to parents express their dismay with the decision.

Chelen said it was a "last-minute decision" made at the end of the school day Friday. The superintendent said she received several complaints from parents worried about the content of the speech, and that she contacted officials from districts around the Mon Valley who also decided not to air the speech live.

Chelen said school officials were supposed to be able to see the speech in advance, but a copy of it was not made available until Labor Day.

"Personally, I knew the president wouldn't say anything that would be detrimental to students. But that's my opinion, and it's not the opinion of everyone in this community," Chelen said.

"So in order not to violate their rights along with everyone else's, we taped it. The children will see his presentation in school. But I have to give every parent the opportunity, if they choose to, to opt out. It was a last-minute decision, and I apologize."

Several parents weren't satisfied with Chelen's explanation.

"I have never heard of any president's speech being censored in America before," the Rev. Davis said.

"My son never provided me any documentation of whether or not he had an option to watch it.

"I heard only a few parents expressed their concern from a political perspective. When I have expressed my opinion, I was basically told from the administration that you have the choice of taking your child home. I think this was unfair."

"A few calls doesn't even represent 1 percent of the student body," Sheila Davis said.

"My concern is this was an historic day for kids to participate in a live message from our president."

The Davises said the impact of the speech won't be as great watching it on tape.

Board President Cheryl Galilei backed Chelen, saying she made the best decision at the time.

Director Maria Scuteri called it a "sad" state when controversy surrounds a president's address, but expressed support for Chelen's decision – given the circumstances.

"It's unfortunate this happened over a holiday weekend," Scuteri said. "But we are not trying to keep history away from our children. I'm sad that this man (Obama) is being bucked every step in the way. But we are not the buckees."

Resident Alan Duncan said he is concerned the district sent a message to children that they they can't trust the president.

"Is it not important to listen to what he has to say?" Duncan asked.

Marie Hall said the district missed a "vital opportunity" and that teachers could have had the students compare Obama's speech with those of past presidents.

Tameka Hall told the board many children, especially those living in poverty or broken homes, could have been affected by Obama's words.

"I think it would have been a good thing for the students to see because the problem with today's youth is they have no goals," Hall said.

"They live for today. They don't care about going to work. Some of these kids could (not) care less about school. Some kids have a one-parent home. Some have no parents at all, and they are out here raising themselves.

"If they felt like their president, who has came from almost nothing, can be something, they should have had the opportunity to hear him. When the phone calls came in, you should have told them, 'keep your kids home.'"

Ron Chiaravalle said district officials should show the speech to the student body and tell the children a mistake was made by not airing it live.

"This was a perfect opportunity to demonstrate one of the building blocks of our constitution – freedom of speech. Our president made a speech and we made a decision not to show it, and I think that was a mistake," he said.

Bishop Roderick Wilson said he was appalled the president's speech was not shown at school.

"I read the excerpt and whole speech before it even came out – nothing political," Wilson said. "It was all encouraging kids to do right by teachers and right by the school district. What is wrong with you all? Just because a few people called and said they don't want their kids to watch it?"

Director Roberta Bergstedt said the district needs to use this situation as a "teaching moment

Valley briefs

Monessen library cancels concert

The Monessen Public Library and District Center has canceled the Choir for Peace Concert scheduled for 6 p.m. tonight.

Traffic stops set for expressway

Random, intermittent traffic stops are planned today for sign work on both sides of the Mon/Fayette Expressway near Jefferson Hills.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission will need the stops — expected to occur between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and lasting a maximum of 30 minutes — so contractors can erect three signs for the "Express E-ZPass" lanes at the Jefferson Hills toll facility, turnpike spokesman Tom Fox said.

The exact timing and extent of the closures will depend on the contractors, he said.

Three other signs are expected to be placed over the travel lanes and five existing signs will be taken down during the closures, officials said.

Warning issued on scam artists

Scam artists pretending to be representatives of the Federal Reserve, the FBI, the state Attorney General's Office and other governmental agencies are calling residents, trying to con them into sending various fees or taxes in order to collect contest winnings.

In one instance, a scam caller trying to convince a senior citizen that she had won a large sum of money claimed to be Attorney General Tom Corbett calling to vouch for the contest, Corbett said Tuesday.

Corbett warns that scam artists are aggressively calling residents or using Internet offers and mail scams with a variety of too-good-to-be-true offers.

Interior chief due at Flight 93 site

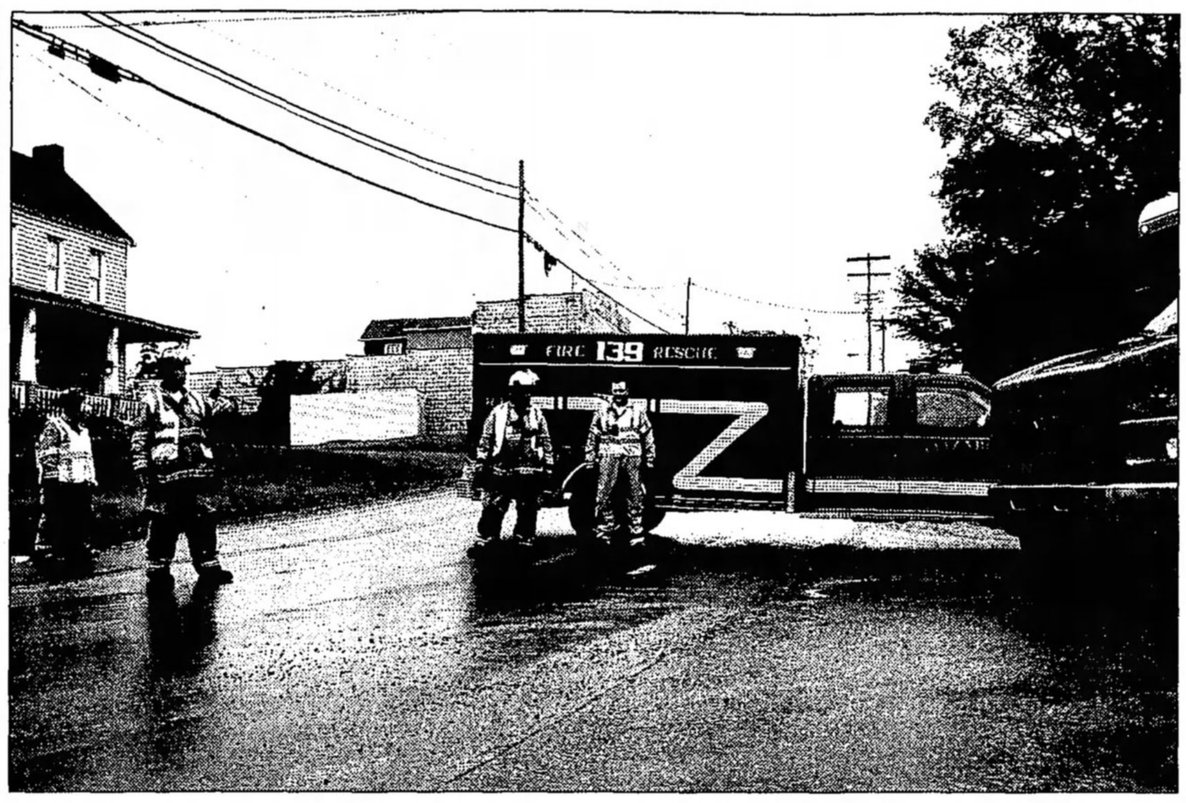
Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will deliver opening remarks at this year's ceremony honoring the people who died on United Airlines Flight 93 when it crashed near Shanksville.

Salazar will join former Secretary of State Colin Powell, the keynote speaker, and singer Trace Adkins, who will perform the national anthem, at Friday's ceremony in Stonycreek.

The plane was traveling from Newark to San Francisco when it was diverted by hijackers likely seeking to crash it into the White House or Capitol.

The 9/11 Commission report said all 33 passengers and seven crew members died when the hijackers crashed the plane as passengers tried to seize control of the cockpit.

Salazar recently helped to broker agreements with the last eight property owners to open the way for a mid-October groundbreaking and the start of construction on the $58 million memorial that is scheduled to open on the 10th anniversary of the attack.



Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Elizabeth firefighters are shown blocking the scene of a fatal accident this morning near the village of Elrama in Union Township. One person was killed and two more were injured as a result of the three-vehicle accident, which reportedly occurred around 6 a.m. and involved two cars and a tractor-trailer in the 1300 block of Route 837. The names of the victims were not released at press time. An environmental cleanup team was called to the scene to clean about 120 gallons of fuel off the roadway. The road was closed to traffic in both directions.

Westmoreland's junenile offenders headed for Cambria County facility

It will cost county taxpayers $185 per day to house the youthful offenders.

By RICH CHOLODOFSKY
For The Valley Independent
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Westmoreland County could spend thousands of dollars this year to house juvenile detainees during a nearly $4.5 million renovation of the juvenile detention center.

Commissioners on Thursday are poised to sign off on a deal to pay Cambria County to house the juveniles during the year-long construction project.

The deal calls for Westmoreland County to pay $185 per day for every juvenile moved to Cambria County.

A companion deal calls for the county to pay $195 a day for juveniles housed in a shelter program for runaways and truants.

Westmoreland County bills $264 a day to other counties to house juvenile detainees in the Hempfield facility.

"In order for us to get the renovations moving we're going to have to juggle. This is a contingency plan," said Adeline Beighley, director of the juvenile detention center.

Juveniles are housed in the 30-year-old Regional Youth Services Center in Hempfield, which has capacity for 24 minors.

The county earlier this year broke ground to renovate the structure.

The project will update and enlarge office space for juvenile probation workers and improve common areas of the detention facility. An energy-efficient heating and cooling system will be installed.

Beighley said the juvenile inmates will have to be relocated at various times during the renovations.

"It's going to be a day-to-day thing. There will never be a time when our doors are closed," Beighley said.

The juvenile population at the county facility has rarely approached capacity. As a result, the deal with Cambria County becomes the first in which Westmoreland County has had to send juvenile offenders to another jurisdiction for housing.

Beighley said it is unclear just how many juveniles will be relocated and what the final cost will be.

Budget Director Jody Keating said the deal will be paid for from the county's general fund and not from money, borrowed in 2003, that is being used to pay for the renovation.

Keating said 50 percent of the costs to house juvenile offenders will be reimbursed by the state. The county is eligible to receive a 90 percent reimbursement for youths sent to Cambria's emergency shelter program.

Teacher contract talks continuing in Charleroi

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
Staff Writer
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Classes are continuing in the Charleroi Area School District as representatives from the teachers' union and the district continue to work toward a new pact to replace the contract that expired Aug. 31.

Both sides met late last week and are planning future talks, according to Superintendent Dr. Brad Ferko.

Ferko said progress is being made as both sides continue to offer proposals and counteroffers.

"Everything seems to be going along well," Ferko said. "It's a long process, but both sides are talking. As long as both sides are talking and there's progress, I'm optimistic."

Ferko said the teachers are continuing to work under the current deal as talks continue.

The Charleroi Area Education Association represents roughly 130 employees of the district.

The current contract three-year contract was reached in October 2006 and was retroactive to August 2006, when the then-former pact had expired. At that time, the teachers continued to work under the old pact as a new contract was negotiated.

Monessen woman now a centenarian

Lena Vecchione was only 20 years old when she left her native Paganica, Italy, and sailed from Naples to the United States.

Accompanied by her mother, Maria, and sister, Pat, they arrived at Ellis Island.

"My father, Justino, was already in Monessen waiting for us," she said.

The wait on Ellis Island was three days.

"We were told if your eyes were bad you'd get sent back to Italy," she recalled. "But we weren't worried because we had physical examinations before we left Italy."

She was married to Alphonso Galilei in 1923. They were wed 52 years when he passed away.

Lena moved to the Monessen Westgate High Rise in 1979 and still resides there quite independently.

Lena Vecchione

Emma Jene **LELIK**

"I keep the place tidy and make my own meals," she said. "I don't do ravioli anymore because of all the work involved."

Although very alert and with a keen memory, Lena says she misses not being physically active.

"I used to go out every day," she said.

She attributes her longevity to living a simple life.

"I never drank or smoked and like simple foods," she revealed.

"I thank God every day for the good life he's given me."

Lena and Alphonso had three sons, Frank (Margaret), Domenic (Mary) and Alfred (Silvia). Margaret Galilei has passed away.

Lena has eight grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. And she knows the birthday of each one.

Lena reached her 100th birthday on Monday.

Her family had gathered earlier for a celebration dinner.

Flowers arrived at her apartment during our conversation.

"How do I care for them?" she asked the delivery person.

You deserve a factual look at . . .

Mr. Netanyahu's Offer (II)

Are the objections of the Palestinians justified?

In our previous *hasbarah message* (#117, **"Mr. Netanyahu's Offer [I]"**), we told of the Netanyahu's government's willingness to allow a Palestinian state to arise alongside Israel in Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") and in Gaza. Not surprisingly, he attached certain conditions to this offer, all of which the Palestinians totally rejected. The objections that we discussed previously referred to the "settlements," the demilitarization of the new state, and the "return of the refugees."

What are the facts?

In addition to those conditions mentioned above, Mr. Netanyahu's offer of a state for the Palestinians in the "West Bank" and in Gaza included two further requirements: One, that Jerusalem remain the undivided capital of Israel and two, that the Arabs recognize Israel to be the Jewish state.

An Undivided Jerusalem. Before the end of the 1967 Six-Day War, during which the Israel defense forces reconquered Jerusalem from the Jordanians, claims to Jerusalem being a Muslim city were rarely if ever asserted. Jerusalem had always been a city in which many religions and nationalities lived side-by-side. It was only after the old city was back in Jewish hands that the Muslim Arabs declared their desire to wage "jihad" (holy war) to bring the city into Arab possession.

"Here is another chance for the Palestinians to have their own country... Chances are overwhelming that, once again, they will reject the outstretched hand...."

The notion to call Jerusalem an Islamic holy city has only come about in modern times, especially after the Arabs lost the city to Israel in the Six-Day War. It has now gained currency by dint of constant repetition. Basis of the claim is that Jerusalem does indeed contain an Islamic holy site, the Temple Mount, sacred to both Muslims and Jews. But Jerusalem has for centuries been the capital of the Jewish people and has been the capital of Israel since its founding. It is mentioned hundreds of times in the Bible. There is not a single mention of it in the Koran.

Israel is the State of the Jews. Mr. Netanyahu insists that Israel be recognized as the Jewish state. But such recognition is obviously only a formality. Israel was established as the Jewish state by the Balfour Declaration, by the League of Nations, by the United Nations, by the consensus of the world, and by the facts on the ground. The reason that the Muslims do not wish to recognize Israel as a Jewish state is that it would supposedly prejudice the rights of the Muslims and perhaps members of other religions who live in Israel. But that is nonsense. Regardless of what it is called, everybody understands that Israel is indeed the State of the Jews, and so do the over 1 million (approximately 20% of Israel's population) Muslims that live in Israel as full citizens, with all the rights and privileges of their Jewish fellow citizens. Nobody seems to object that, for instance, Iran designates itself as an "Islamic Republic." For the Muslim world to recognize Israel as the State of the Jews would simply be recognizing reality.

It has to be clear to every student of modern history that the Palestinians, if that were their real goal, could have had their own state since at least 1937, following the Peel Report. There have been many opportunities since. The most important of those was the 1948 decision of the United Nations to partition the country west of the Jordan River into a Muslim and a Jewish state. The Jews eagerly accepted the proposal, which the Arabs utterly rejected and instead invaded the nascent state of Israel with the armies of five of their countries. There have been many other opportunities since, all of which the Muslims have rejected. One must come to the unhappy conclusion that to create a state is not the ultimate goal of the Palestinians. The ultimate goal always has been and continues to be the destruction of the state of Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu's offer of allowing a Palestinian state to be created and to exist along Israel is a most generous offer. No parallel can be found in the annals of world history. It is abundantly clear that the "conditions" accompanying Mr. Netanyahu's offer are more than reasonable. Surely, after decades of open hostilities and the recent bitter example of Gaza, it should go without saying that the newly formed state should be totally and reliably demilitarized. It should be clear that the "settlements" – about 300,000 Jews in a sea of over 3 million Arabs – cannot be an obstacle to peace, since the over 1 million Arabs living in Israel are not considered a problem. It should be clear that the "refugees," which have swelled from the original 650,000 to allegedly more than 5 million, should be settled in the newly to be formed state of Palestine.

Jerusalem has been the center of Jewish life and Jewish yearning for over 3,000 years. There is no reason why it should not remain the undivided capital of Israel. And, of course, Israel is a Jewish state. Everybody understands that, whether the Muslims do or do not wish to accept it. Here is another chance for the Palestinians to have their own country and to live in peace and in prosperity alongside Israel. But chances are overwhelming that, once again, they will reject the outstretched hand that is being offered.

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DEATH NOTICES

BECKOVICH — Michael R. "Becky" Beckovich, 92, of Monongahela, formerly of Clairton and Mt. Lebanon, on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Marshall Marra Funeral Home, Monongahela.*

BRAKE — Dorothy Ann Brake, 81, of Monongahela, on Monday, Sept. 7. Frye Funeral Home Inc., Monongahela.*

SPADA — Dolores "Babe" Spada, 77, of Charleroi, on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Leonard M. Pavlic Funeral Homes Inc., Charleroi.*

WHERRY — James Kenneth Wherry, 89, of Monessen, on Monday, Sept. 7. Robert A. Billick Funeral Home Inc., Monessen.*

Michael R. "Becky" Beckovich

Monongahela

Formerly of Clairton and Mt. Lebanon

Michael R. (Becky) Beckovich Sr., 92, of Monongahela, formerly residing in Clairton and Mt. Lebanon, died Tuesday, September 8, 2009, in Southwestern Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Born March 28, 1917, in Clairton, he was the son of the late Ante "Tony" and Mary (Zavadska) Bekavac. A crane man with U.S. Steel's Clairton Works, he retired in 1979 after 43 1/2 years of service. He was an honorable retired member of Local Steelworkers Union No.1557. He was a former member of St. Clairs Roman Catholic Church in Clairton and their Holy Name Society, and also the Clairton Lions Club. He was currently a member of Transfiguration Catholic Church in Monongahela. In years past, Mike enjoyed going to Tionesta and taking care of his prized cherry tree and vegetable and flower garden in Clairton. In more recent years, he enjoyed traveling to Cape Cod, Canada, Florida, Hawaii, and California, and he did enjoy the casinos. He is survived by four children: Judith A. (James R.) Maselli of West Elizabeth; Michael R. Jr. (Margaret) Beckovich of Clairton; Daniel L. (Kathleen) Beckovich of Bethel Park; Monica J. (Frank) Ripinski of Clairton; eight grandchildren: Colleen (Tom) Smithyman, Kevin, Matthew and Keri Beckovich, James (Angela), Shaun and Erik Maselli, and Haley Ripinski; five great-grandchildren: Celina, Ashton, Jacquelyn Maselli, Aidan and Jordan Smithyman; two brothers, Nicholas Bekavac of Pleasant Hills, and Thomas Bekavac of Tampa Fla.; and numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death was his first wife of 43 1/2 years Bertha (Davdovich) Beckovich; and his second wife Irene (Kovalak) Beckovich who died in 2006; four brothers, John, Joseph, Peter and Stephen Bekavac; and two sisters, Ann Gregorini and Helen Bekavac. Friends will be received in the MARSHALL MARRA FUNERAL HOME, 216 Chess St. Monongahela (724-258-6767) from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in Transfiguration Catholic Church, 722 West Main St. Monongahela, on Saturday September 12, 2009, at 10 a.m. with Fr. George Chortos as celebrant. Entombment will follow in Jefferson Memorial Park, Pleasant Hills.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Dorothy Ann Brake

Monongahela

Dorothy Ann Brake, 81, of Monongahela, died Monday, September 7, 2009, in Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh. She was born June 30, 1928, in Donora, a daughter of Stephen and Emma Hedges Smugala. Dorothy was employed as an aide at Western Psychiatric Hospital in Canonsburg and later retired from the Intermediate Unit in California as a teacher's aide. She was a member of St. Anthony's Church in Monongahela, enjoyed staying at home and working around the house and was an avid Pirates and Steelers fan. She is survived by three grandchildren: Joe and his wife Jennifer Brake of Bethel Park, Jonathan and Jennifer Brake, both of Monongahela; six great-grandchildren: Abby, Emily, Jeff, Zackery, Alexis and Gavin; former daughter-in-law-Janet Brake of Monongahela; sister Agnes Jackman of Charleroi, and two special friends Gordon Heyes and Rose Augustine, both of Monongahela. Several nieces and nephews also survive. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ira L. Brake who died September 19, 1994; son Jeffrey Brake who died January 1, 1995; and a brother Edward Smugala. Friends will be received on Thursday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the FRYE FUNERAL HOME INC., 427 W. Main St., Monongahela. A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Friday at 10 a.m. in St. Anthony's Church with the Rev. Joseph Feltz, pastor, as celebrant. Committal services and interment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Monongahela. To leave an online condolence visit www.fryefuneralhome.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Dolores "Babe" Spada

Charleroi

Dolores "Babe" Spada, 77, of Charleroi, died Tuesday Sept. 8, 2009, in Monongahela Valley Hospital. Born in Charleroi Aug. 24, 1932, a daughter of the late Mitchell and Victoria Mielcarek Dulac. Mrs. Spada is a member of Mary Mother of the Church, Charleroi. She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Leo and Lee Ann Spada, of Charleroi, and Gregory and Amy Spada, also of Charleroi; one sister, Helen Beck, of North Charleroi; and four grandchildren, Derek, Justin, Krista and Lauren Spada. Preceded in death by her husband, Leo Spada in 1994; and an infant brother, Mitchell Dulac Jr. Visitation will be held on Thursday Sept. 10 from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm in the LEONARD M. PAVLIC FUNERAL HOMES, INC., 235 Fallowfield Ave. Charleroi. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, Sept. 11 at 10:30 a.m. in Mary, Mother of the Church, Charleroi. Internment will follow at Monongahela Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

James Kenneth Wherry

Monessen

James Kenneth Wherry, 89, of Monessen, died Monday, Sept. 7, 2009, in Ross Kane Nursing Center. Born in Bentleyville on Jan. 25, 1920, he was the son of the late Merle and Cosetta Sprowls Wherry. He served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corp as a pilot, where he held the rank of Major. He was a retired coal miner. He was a former member of St. John the Divine Russian Orthodox Church, the Ukrainian Club and the Monessen Volunteer Fire Department No. 2 social club. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Julia Dzyak Wherry; and a son, Robert Wherry. He is survived by one son, James Dennis Wherry of Gales Ferry, Conn.; four grandchildren, Ian Wherry of Moon Township, Shane Wherry of Ross Township, Denise Wherry and Leah Wherry, both of Ottawa, Canada; a brother-in-law, Paul Dzyak of Monessen; and numerous nieces and nephews. Friends will be received on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the ROBERT A. BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC., Grand Boulevard and Marion Avenue, Monessen (724) 684-3700. Funeral services will be held on Friday at 10 a.m. in the funeral home with Fr. Rumen Stoychev officiating. Entombment will follow in Grandview Cemetery, Monessen.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Civil rights activist Harvey Adams dies

He used his physical presence and devotion to justice to bend Pittsburgh toward fairness.

For The Valley Independent

The crowd of black marchers, seething on a night in 1968 when race riots ignited around the country, approached a phalanx of white police officers outside Pittsburgh's Hill District police station.

They stared at each other, angry and afraid. Into the breach stepped Harvey Adams Jr., a black police sergeant and driving force behind the civil rights movement in Pittsburgh. He ordered the officers into formation, and marched them into the station. The crowd outside dissolved.

While many American cities burned, Adams gave his corner of Pittsburgh a few moments of peace. Adams died Monday night, an unbowed veteran of domestic struggle and foreign war. He was 80.

By turns bellowing and soft-spoken, Adams used his commanding physical presence and devotion to justice to bend his city toward fairness, friends said Tuesday.

"For me, he was a hero," said Wendell Freeland, an attorney, civil rights pioneer during his military days as a Tuskegee airman, and one of the Hill District marchers.

"He had nerve and conviction," said Louis "Hop" Kendrick, another longtime friend.

Adams' career included 16 years as president of the local NAACP chapter, 12 years as director of the city's Housing Authority Police and more than 30 years as "a force in the African-American community," said Rod Doss, publisher of The New Pittsburgh Courier.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Shirley; a son, Harvey Adams III of Wilkinsburg; daughters Carol Adams of Wilkinsburg and Nikki Wright of Stanton Heights; and two granddaughters.

For three months in 2004, Adams served as police chief in Wilkinsburg, during which "he took no pay," said Chief Ophelia "Cookie" Coleman.

"He was about service. His whole life was devoted to helping someone else," Coleman said.

Adams graduated from South Hills High School in 1950. He was a combat infantryman in the Korean War, and refused an officer's commission because he believed the Army officer corps was too segregated.

Adams received a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from West Virginia State College, according to his official police biography.

As a social worker for the Department of Public Assistance in McKeesport in 1953-54, he attended Duquesne University Law School.

In 1955, Adams joined the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police after recording the highest score in the history of the civil service entrance exam, according to the bureau. He joined a segregated force, and chafed under rules barring blacks from patrolling in squad cars.

Adams and William H. "Mugsy" Moore, who became Pittsburgh's first black police chief, traveled the country decrying the treatment of black officers within the Pittsburgh police department, Kendrick said.

"They risked everything, including their lives," he said.

VALLEY POLICE LOG

California

■ Nicholas J. Dunn, 19, of Souderton, was cited for underage drinking and violating the open container ordinance at 11 p.m. Saturday on Union Street.

■ Michael J. Fayish, 22, of Belle Vernon, was cited for public drunkenness and underage drinking at about 11:40 p.m. Saturday on Peach Way. Fayish was cited again at midnight on Third Street for public drunkenness and violating the open container ordinance, police said.

■ Alexander C. Fuellgraf, 20, no town listed, was cited for underage drinking at 1:03 a.m. Sunday on Second Street, police said.

■ Mark Kevin Mansor, 19, of Dunkirk, Md.; Andrew Gilbert Ali, 20, of Bethel Park, and Corey Robert Frohnhoffer, 21, of West Newton, were cited for disorderly conduct for a loud party at 12:25 a.m. Sunday on Second Street. Dunkirk and Ali were also cited for underage drinking.

■ Ashley Nicole Farrar, 20, of Colorado Springs, Colo., was cited for disorderly conduct, public drunkenness, and underage drinking for an alleged incident at 2:44 a.m. Saturday on Pennsylvania Avenue and Orchard Avenue.

■ Zachary Hawkins, 19, Graeme Davis, 19, and Christopher P. Oldam, 20, all of Brownsville, were all cited for disorderly conduct for an alleged incident at 5:58 p.m. Sept. 2 on Shutterly Avenue, police said..

■ Alysen Nicole Roscia, 21, of Altoona, and Melissa Ann Krenzelak, 21, of Burgettstown, were cited for disorderly conduct for allegedly having a loud party at their apartment at Vulcan Village at 11 p.m. Sept. 2.

John Richard McGonigle, 20, of Vandergrift, Pa., was cited for underage drinking at the party, police said.

Southwest Regional

■ Victor George Horrell Sr., 39, of 531 Speer St., Belle Vernon, was charged with simple assault, terroristic threats and harassment stemming from an alleged incident at the residence of his daughter, Priscilla Jean Horrell, 24 Mulberry St., Belle Vernon, at 5:11 a.m. Sunday.

■ Matthew Jacob Perry, 22, of 305 Market St., Belle Vernon, was cited for disorderly conduct at his residence at 10:15 a.m. Sept. 4.

Washington Township

■ Michael R. Nutt, 25, of 330 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, and Zachary L. Haney, 24, of 137 Liberty St., Perryopolis, were charged with disorderly conduct following an alleged disturbance at 1:45 a.m. Saturday at 1 Cook Road, police said.

At 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Nathaniel Soderholm, 27, of 1213 McKean Ave., Charleroi, was charged with disorderly conduct at the same residence, police said.

State Police, Belle Vernon

■ A female juvenile was charged with harassment after hitting Tonya Hickle, of Grrindstone, on Saturday at West Second Street, Grindstone.

■ Bryan Horner, 34, of West Brownsville, and Cathleen Conn, 22, of Bentleyville, were charged with harassment at 6 p.m. Monday.

■ Bradley Castor, no age listed, of Charleroi, was cited for harassment at 1:30 a.m. Monday at Richardson Park, Bentleyville.

Fire-ravaged buildings being razed in Monongahela

Part of West Main Street will remain closed until demolition work is completed.

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
Staff Writer
cbuckley@tribweb.com

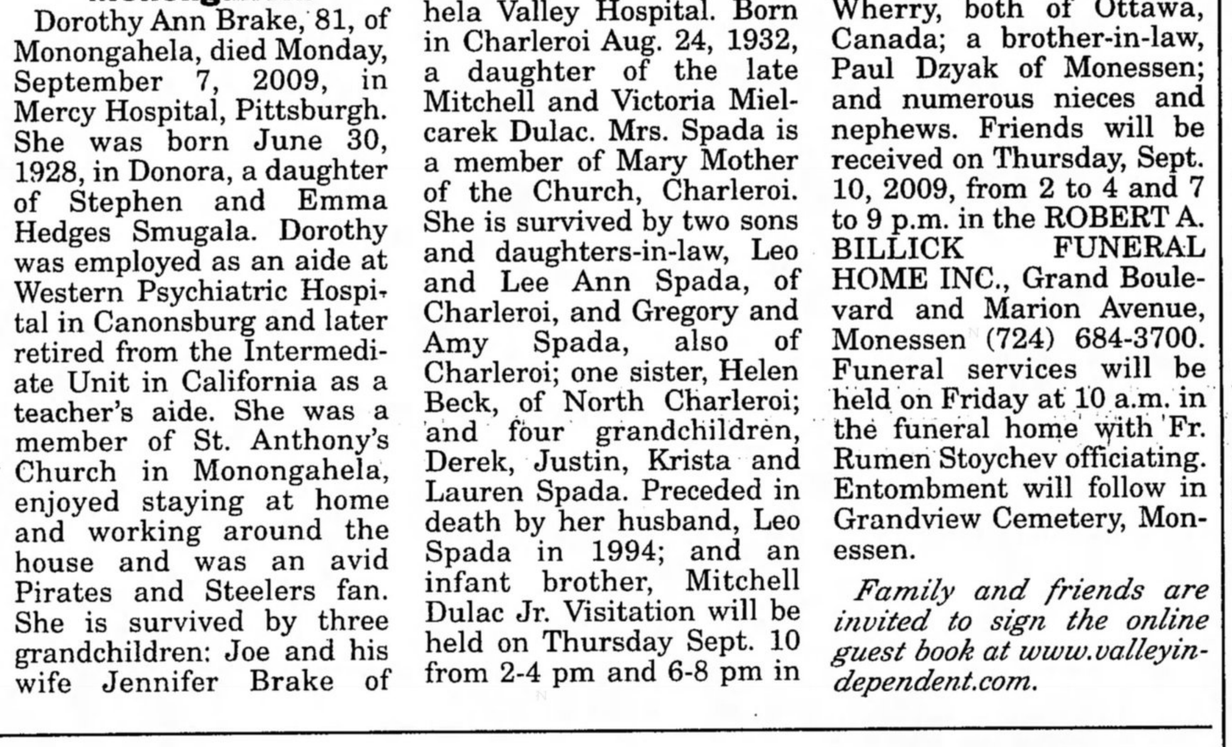
MONONGAHELA - Demolition began late Tuesday on two downtown businesses in Monongahela ravaged by fire earlier this week.

The Sunday morning fire gutted Vocelli Pizza, 22 West Main St. and damaged roofs to two other buildings – The Bee's Nest Café, 226 West Main St. and Hufnagel Software and Computers, 218 West Main St.

That fire also damaged a wall at the Bee's Nest Café – on the side closest to the Monongahela Area Historical Society building, not Vocelli - requiring it to be razed along with the pizza shop, Monongahela fire Chief Frank Hnatik said.

By this morning, the former pizza shop site was lowered to one story, limiting the danger.

However, the 200 block of West Main Street will remain closed until the structures are removed, Hnatik said.



Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Demolition of the former Vocelli Pizza building in Monongahela continues this morning. Fire early Sunday gutted Vocelli Pizza, 22 West Main St. and damaged roofs to two other buildings – The Bee's Nest Café, 226 West Main St. and Hufnagel Software and Computers, 218 West Main St.

Although investigators know the fire began in the Vocelli building, they are unsure the exact point of origin because it is not safe to enter the building.

Hnatik said they have not been able to determine what set off the fire that witnesses said involved at least two explosions that sent glass from the store front windows across the street.

Although natural gas has not officially been ruled out, Equitable Gas employees did several tests Tuesday and found no leaks outside the buildings.

The fire has drawn regional and even national curiosity, Hnatik noted. He said thousands of people have driven to and walked by the fire scene in the past three days. The fire chief has even been contacted by people from other parts of the country, he said.

Hnatik said he suspects the historical nature of the century-old buildings is drawing people's interest.

"Anytime you have three buildings in a row go down at one time, it stirs interest," Hnatik said.

Interest was probably generated also because a ladder truck from New Eagle partially collapsed while fighting the fire, causing firefighter Les Pemberton to tumble onto a roof.

He was treated Sunday at Monongahela Valley Hospital for injuries and later released.

Monongahela police Chief Brian Tempest said the fire investigation is ongoing, as is normal procedure. No foul play is suspected, though, Tempest said.

Tempest said when the roof from Vocelli Pizza fell on The Bee's Nest, the force of the impact caused the windows at the café to be blown out.

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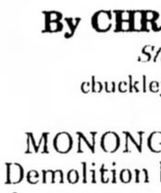

In Memory Of
Eileen M. Gee

A Birthday Tribute today, September 9, 2009, in loving memory of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt, **Eileen M. Gee**, who would have been 91 years old.

Every day in some way, memories of you come our way. Though absent you are always near, still loved, still missed & ever dear. Beautiful memories are wonderful things, they last through the longest day. They never wear out, they never get lost and can never be given away. Though by some you may be forgotten and to others a part of the past, but for us who loved and lost you, your memory will always last.

Sadly missed and loved by children, Charlene & husband Ken, Bunky, Patty, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews and Families

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 9, the 252nd day of 2009. There are 113 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Sept. 9, 1776, the second Continental Congress made the term "United States" official, replacing "United Colonies."

On this date:

■ In 1830, Charles Durant flew a balloon from New York City across the Hudson River to Perth Amboy, N.J.

■ In 1850, California became the 31st state of the union.

■ In 1893, Frances Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland, gave birth to a daughter, Esther, in the White House; it was the first time a president's child was born in the executive mansion.

■ In 1919, some 1,100 members of Boston's 1,500-man police force went on strike, plunging the city into chaos. (The strike was broken by Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge, who brought in replacement officers.)

■ In 1926, the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC) was incorporated by the Radio Corp. of America.

In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was declared.

■ In 1956, Elvis Presley made the first of three appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

■ In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law the first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction.

■ In 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, N.Y., beginning a siege that ended up claiming 43 lives.

■ In 1976, Communist Chinese leader Mao Zedong died in Beijing at age 82.

■ **Ten years ago:** Former Republican Sen. John Danforth opened an independent inquiry into the 1993 siege of the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas. A massive explosion tore apart a Moscow apartment building, killing about a hundred people. Israel released 199 Palestinian security prisoners as part of a new peace deal. Baseball Hall-of-Fame pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter died in Hertford, N.C., at age 53. Actress Ruth Roman died in Laguna Beach, Calif., at age 76.

■ **Five years ago**: Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that abuses by government-supported Arab militias in Sudan qualified as genocide against the black African population in the Darfur region. A powerful car bomb exploded outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing 10 people.

■ **One year ago**: President George W. Bush announced he would keep U.S. force strength in Iraq largely intact until the next administration, drawing rebukes from Democrats who wanted the war ended and a bigger boost of troops in troubled Afghanistan. Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of assassinated former Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto, took office as Pakistan's president.

Associated Press

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, of Nevada, accompanied by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of California, speaks to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House in Washington on Tuesday, after meeting with President Barack Obama about health care reform.

Obama tries to build momentum for his health care overhaul plan

President set to address Congress and the nation about the divisive issue tonight.

By JENNIFER LOVEN
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Reaching for a game-changer, President Barack Obama is beset by conflicting goals in a prime-time address tonight expected to detail just how he wants to expand health care coverage and lower medical costs while signaling to a deeply divided Congress that he's ready to deal.

And show the public he's in control.

Even as Obama prepared to speak to lawmakers and a live television audience, the leader of the influential Senate Finance Committee raced to broker a bipartisan agreement on the president's top domestic priority.

The White House set a high bar for the rare presidential address to a joint session of Congress, acknowledging the huge stakes and creating big expectations about the level of specificity Obama would provide.

The president has stressed repeatedly the broad goals for the sweeping health care overhaul he seeks, but has left the details to lawmakers. Through a hot summer of angry debate, he lost his grip on the process.

Aiming to reclaim it at a pivotal moment and open a final push for a bill, Obama said, "We do intend to get something done this year."

"I'm open to new ideas," he said in an interview for broadcast Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America" in which he previewed the themes of his speech. "We're not being rigid and ideological about this thing."

With the approximately 35-minute speech still being written, much by Obama himself, White House officials said the president will "answer all the major questions" — including the sticky issue of how to pay for getting coverage for the 50 million Americans who lack it.

"Everyone who listens will understand that his plan has at its core two overriding goals — to bring stability and security to Americans who have insurance today, and affordable coverage to those who don't," Obama senior adviser David Axelrod said.

Road to reform has been rocky

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Harry Reid could hardly believe his ears.

The Senate majority leader was in Denver for a mid-August Democratic conference when he heard one of Congress' pivotal negotiators on health care trashing a bill on that very subject.

"You have every right to fear," Republican Sen. Charles Grassley told a raucous citizens' forum in Iowa that day. "We should not have a government program that determines you're going to pull the plug on Grandma."

Grassley's stunning comments made Reid second-guess a decision he and President Barack Obama had reluctantly made months earlier: to give six senators from small states, the so-called Gang of Six, the time and prominence to fashion a bipartisan bill on overhauling the health care system.

In retrospect, it was just one of several risks, missed opportunities and dubious decisions that have forced Obama to schedule a high-stakes address to Congress on Wednesday night in hopes of salvaging his top domestic priority.

A team of Associated Press reporters, interviewing dozens of key players, identified several crucial moments and decisions that brought the health care saga to this point.

The first big blow to Obama's health care agenda came from a bearded, bespectacled Harvard University-trained economist with a background in the Clinton administration.

Douglas Elmendorf, director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, sat before the Senate Budget Committee on July 16. Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., cut to the chase: Would newly released House bills curb federal health care costs?

Nope, Elmendorf said. "On the contrary," he said, "the legislation significantly expands the federal responsibility for health care costs."

Kaboom.

Republicans pounced. House GOP leader John Boehner of Ohio said Elmendorf "confirmed that the Democrats' government-run plan will make health care more costly than ever."

Obama later said Elmendorf was simply stating the obvious, that bringing 46 million new people into the system would cost money.

But the testimony emboldened conservative "Blue Dog" Democrats who felt the House's liberal leaders were ignoring their concerns about costs. House leaders agreed to postpone a floor vote until September.

Warning signs about the cost issue's volatility came as early as March 4.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner explained the president's proposal to limit tax deductions for wealthy people as a way to raise money to help pay for expanded health care. But when lawmakers pushed back, Geithner did not dig in.

"We recognize there are other ways to do this," he told members of Congress. The comment seemed to unleash a flood of ideas, trial balloons and mixed messages.

There were proposals to tax soda pop and increase taxes on alcohol. The Gang of Six senators spent months discussing a new tax on health benefits packages, then dropped it. Now it might be back in play, with Democratic Sen. Max Baucus of Montana proposing a 35 percent tax on the value of insurance plans exceeding $8,000 for individuals and $21,000 for families.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Consumers reduce debt by $21.6B

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers slashed their borrowing in July by the largest amount on record as job losses and uncertainty about the economic recovery prompted Americans to rein in their debt.

Economists expect consumers will continue to spend less, save more and trim debt to get household finances decimated by the recession into better shape. Such behavior, though, is a recipe for a lethargic revival, because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

The Federal Reserve reported Tuesday that consumers in July ratcheted back their credit by a larger-than-anticipated $21.6 billion from June, the most on records dating to 1943. Economists had expected credit to drop by $4 billion.

July's retreat translated into an annualized decline of 10.4 percent.

That followed a cut of $15.5 billion in June, or a 7.4 percent annualized drop, and was the most since a 16.3 percent decline in June 1975.

The latest cut still left total consumer credit at $2.47 trillion.

Sotomayor takes seat on high court

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Sonia Sotomayor has taken her seat at the Supreme Court in front of a packed courtroom that included President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden.

The ceremony Tuesday was just for show. Sotomayor and the rest of the court will return today for the argument in a key case about campaign finance law.

Sotomayor, 55, last month became the first Hispanic and third woman to be a justice. She took the oath again Tuesday in a ceremony by which the court formally welcomes its newest member.

Attorney General Eric Holder presented Sotomayor's ivory-colored commission from Obama. Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath of office, after which Sotomayor took her seat at the end of the bench to Roberts' left, next to Justice Stephen Breyer. All her colleagues were in attendance.

Obama panel nixes another moon trip

WASHINGTON (AP) — A White House panel of independent space experts says NASA's return-to-the-moon plan just won't fly.

The problem is money. The expert panel estimates it would cost about $3 billion a year beyond NASA's current $18 billion annual budget.

"Under the budget that was proposed, exploration beyond Earth is not viable," panel member Edward Crawley, a professor of aeronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

'Cash 5' jackpot at least $330,000

HARRISBURG (AP) – Wednesday's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" jackpot will be worth at least $330,000 because no player matched the five winning numbers drawn in Tuesday's game.

Lottery officials said 78 players matched four numbers and won $259.50 each; 2,984 players matched three numbers and won $11.50 each; and 36,228 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

The Valley Independent Lottery Results

PENNSYLVANIA — DAILY NUMBERS
TUESDAY, September 8, 2009

DAY PICK 3:	3-2-1
NIGHT PICK 3:	3-8-4
DAY PICK BIG 4:	0-6-4-2
NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	7-1-4-7
DAY QUINTO:	3-7-7-3-8
NIGHT QUINTO:	8-5-3-5-5
TREASURE HUNT:	8-13-14-20-22
CASH 5:	3-13-22-29-42
SUPER 7:	6-11-13-16-21-26 31-47-50-61-65

OHIO — DAILY NUMBERS
TUESDAY, September 8, 2009

DAY PICK 3:	9-8-7
NIGHT PICK 3:	3-5-5
DAY PICK 4:	6-0-7-2
NIGHT PICK 4:	9-6-6-6
ROLLING CASH 5:	2-8-17-28-35

WEST VIRGINIA — DAILY NUMBERS
TUESDAY, September 8, 2009

DAILY 3:	5-8-5
DAILY 4:	6-5-6-2
CASH 25:	6-11-17-20-22-24

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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OUR OPINION

Van Jones did himself in

IN THE END, Van Jones smeared himself.

Under the cover of the darkness of a holiday weekend, the White House announced the resignation of Mr. Jones, the "green jobs" policy chief. He was one of the Obama administration's many policy "czars" who, unlike Cabinet members, escaped congressional scrutiny before his appointment. (Talk about a "shadow government.")

Jones is a piece of work. His radical left extremism should have disqualified him from any post in government.

Jones is a self-avowed communist. He supports convicted cop-killer Mumia abu-Jamal. Jones, who is black, believes there's a conspiracy among whites to pollute minority neighborhoods.

He signed a petition that alleged the U.S. government somehow allowed the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Some of his defenders intimated he didn't realize what he was signing, which only raises more questions about his fitness to serve.

And Jones also referred to Republicans with an expletive in a recent exchange posted on YouTube. It's hardly the temperament of someone charged with overseeing policy implementation of any sort, let alone this bogus notion of "green jobs."

Jones claims he's the victim of "lies and distortions" and a "smear campaign" orchestrated by the right. As if reporting the truth about him is a "smear."

Van Jones is gone. But we are forced to ask how many Van Joneses remain?

YOUR OPINION

Students deprived of president's speech

To the Editor:

As retired educators and proud American citizens, we are appalled, disillusioned and dismayed to learn that our school district and other schools in the area denied students the chance to listen to President Obama's address to the children of this nation. This action is one of blatant censorship and a violation o the students' First Amendment rights.

Students claim the curriculum is not relevant to the real world. This is the perfect opportunity to bring the real world into the classroom to listen to the President of the United States, specifically by the President's request. Valuable lessons of respect and tolerance can also be learned from this.

While we feel parents should take an active interest in their children's education, we do not feel they should dictate what programs should or should not be offered in schools.

It is a sad commentary to allow a handful of political extremists to deny all students this opportunity. What an honor it would be to hear our president address the students by encouraging them "to study hard, stay in school and work toward achieving their educational goals."

All students need to hear these words, since, sorry to say, some parents may not speak them frequently enough to their own children. To deprive them of this chance is not only unconscionable but un-American as well.

Unfortunately, a precedent has been set by allowing a few prejudicial influences to formulate school policy. What will the next parental directive be ... banning books from the library or manipulation of the curriculum?

We, as decent Americans, should fear the "fascism" that these individuals propound, which is something much more dangerous than the non-existent "socialism: that they fear!

Elmer J. Gagatko
Virginia Monaghan
Edward Monaghan

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, *The Valley Independent*, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.) While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Green is the new red

Rich **LOWRY**

Van Jones spent the 1990s as an avowed communist. He is an unabashed political hater. He traffics in poisonous "truther" conspiracy theories about 9/11 as an inside job. And, yet, he is a mainstream figure within environmentalism. The real Jones scandal is less his wince-inducingly sophomoric radicalism, than how comfortably he fits within the broader world of contemporary liberalism.

Even as Jones was forced from his position as the White House's special adviser for green jobs, the left had his back. It sputtered at conservatives — damn you, Glenn Beck! — who had publicized his former words. Have they no decency? Howard Dean pronounced Jones "a star," and called his defenestration "too bad for the country."

For liberals and the media there is never a "left-wing extremist." The day before yesterday, they were tarring all of conservatism with the rantings of a few "birther" loons. The mere existence of this fringe supposedly constituted a damning statement of conservatism's rancid irrelevance. But here was Van Jones, who thought the U.S. government possibly engineered 9/11, and he had a hand in disbursing tens of billions of dollars of Obama's "green" stimulus funds.

All the major media ignored the Jones controversy as it built. As his work with a Marxist group called Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement came to light, nothing. As he apologized twice — for signing a "truther" petition and using a vulgarity to describe Republicans in a January speech — barely anything. Imagine if a bomb-throwing right-winger who had worked with a neo-Nazi group in the 1990s occupied a position of any consequence in a Republican administration. Entire news departments would be assigned the story.

The New York Times managed not to mention the Jones controversy until he quit. Times readers learned that he was dead without ever hearing that he was sick. It must have been a little like waking up in Stalin-era Russia to find that a commissar in good standing had unaccountably been erased from history. Charles Freeman, a rabidly anti-Israel Obama appointee for a top intelligence job, suffered the same strange fate — undone by a controversy the Times didn't deign to notice until it ended.

How did a radical agitator like Jones arrive in the Obama administration? He's just part of the fraternity. "We were so delighted to be able to recruit him into the White House," Valerie Jarrett said a few weeks ago. "We were watching him." In its story about his ouster, The Washington Post called him a "towering figure" in the environmental movement.

Jones has been the Great Black Hope of environmentalism. The movement is only slightly less white than the Daughters of the American Revolution. So it naturally took to Jones with his racially charged rhetoric about "greening the ghetto." He offered street cred the average vanilla-latte environmentalist lacked.

For Jones, the environmental movement is a perfect vehicle. In today's America, it is the most natural place for someone with Marxist sensibilities and aspirations outside a college English department. A frontal assault on capitalism on behalf of the working people of the world is passe and doomed.

A stealth assault on capitalism in the name of saving the planet is chic and entirely plausible. In this sense, green is the new red.

After visiting the Soviet Union in the 1920s, New Deal brain-truster Stuart Chase asked, "Why should Russians have all the fun remaking the world?" In the same spirit, Jones enthuses in his book "The Green Collar Economy" that Americans today "get to retrofit, reboot, and reenergize a nation." Jones calls his vision a "Green New Deal," but it's more of an American Great Leap Forward, giving "an honored place for labor and social activists" so they can "change the direction of our society." The effort "will require a World War II level of mobilization."

Lunacy? Not for enviros. As Gus Speth, a co-founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council, told The New Yorker, "We in the environmental movement cannot fail Van Jones."

Only a fool calls it surrender

Diana **WEST**

Finally, some debate over U.S. war policy in Afghanistan. Or at least debate over George F. Will's call to pull the plug on U.S. war policy in Afghanistan, headlined "Time to Get Out of Afghanistan."

The negative response from conservatives was revealing. It showed that after eight years of America's post-9/11 war efforts, which started out as President Bush's vaguely named "war on terror" and never crystallized into a cogent strategy against the jihad driving the "terror," ambiguity and confusion still cloud the prevailing thinking, from the conventional wisdom to war strategy.

Most conservative rebuttals ignored Will's reckoning of just how grossly ill-suited Afghanistan is to the hallucinogenic U.S. policy of constructing a modern society out of dust as our military worms affection from a hostile population. Instead, they focused on the concept of leaving Afghanistan — a move I, too, have advocated since April in my column and at my blog as a necessary precondition to better repulsing global jihad. Such an effort is, or should be, a multi-level campaign to reverse jihad's ultimate goal, which is to extend Islamic law by both violent and other means. In this larger context, Afghanistan is not only just one front, it is also a front too far.

Most of my conservative colleagues, however, see withdrawal from Afghanistan as surrender.

This assumption, based in the fallacy that U.S. forces are simply fighting an army called "the Taliban," rather than struggling with a culture called Islam shared by enemy and civilian alike, makes sense only if withdrawing from Afghanistan means ending our efforts against global jihad. The point of withdrawal is not to stop destroying America's active enemies in Afghanistan or elsewhere; this can continue from worldwide bases, or "lily pads," as necessary, as Maj. Gen. Paul Vallely (USA ret.) argues. The point of withdrawal is to stop trying to create an American ally out of Sharia-supreme Afghanistan, something we attempted at great expense in Sharia-supreme Iraq, and failed.

Of course, what animates and drives most conservatives today is their vision of Iraq as a "success," and their desire to repeat that "success" in Afghanistan. What has become increasingly clear to me, however, is that an infidel nation cannot fight for the soul of an Islamic nation. This, in effect, is what our "nation-building" troops have been ordered to do both in Iraq and Afghanistan. Let me rephrase: An infidel nation can indeed fight for the soul of an Islamic nation. It just can't win it.

It also turns out there is nothing there for infidels to win. After six U.S.-intensive years, Iraq remains just another OPEC-participating, Israel-boycotting, Hezbollah-sympathetic, Sharia-supreme, anti-U.S. entity with new and improved ties to Iran. Why? Our belief systems, Islam's and the West's, are so diametrically opposed that our interests cannot intersect. Left and Right in this country, however, scrub this truth and its centuries of confirming history from all policy — an antiseptic way to view conflict in the world that will always miss the cure by ignoring the germs.

On this count, Will's column is no different, never once contemplating Islam. Which is why his conclusion may be a little fuzzy. Describing his "offshore" alternatives to basing a massive army inside Afghanistan, Will identifies the key mission as "concentrating on the porous 1,500-mile border with Pakistan, a nation that actually matters."

I'm not sure what Will means by calling Pakistan "a nation that actually matters." Certainly, Pakistan's nuclear arsenal "matters" because it could hurt us, and thus our national security demands an execution-ready plan to neutralize it. But Pakistan, a jihad-based culture, doesn't "matter" in terms of fitting into an anti-jihad alliance — the ultimate goal, whether admitted or not, of efforts to work together. It can't. Quick facts: Pakistan's army's motto is "Faith, piety and holy war in the path of Allah." Seventy-eight percent of its people, the latest Pew Poll tells us, support the death penalty for leaving Islam. Not exactly our ideal match.

But we keep such politically incorrect facts out of focus. Then we struggle to see why things go wrong. More clarity is required. More debate is essential. Eight years after 9/11, this means finally reckoning with Islam — discussing jihad, analyzing Sharia, understanding dhimmitude — as a strategic factor in U.S. policy.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Dem leader wants 'successful' plan for Afghanistan

Congressional leaders want assurance that any increase in troops would dislodge insurgents.

By LARA JAKES
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — House and Senate lawmakers are expressing increasing skepticism over the prospect of ordering thousands more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, saying they want to see strong evidence that such an increase would dislodge insurgents from safe havens there and in neighboring Pakistan.

"We'll want to see a plan, a plan that members conclude can be successful," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., told reporters Tuesday.

Sen. Susan Collins, a moderate Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said it's far from clear that the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan can succeed, "despite the enormous bravery of our troops and talent of military leaders."

"I just don't know if this is doable," Collins, R-Maine, said. "I don't know that we can achieve the goal of a stable, secure Afghanistan that is freed from the Taliban and is no longer a safe haven for al-Qaida."

The building congressional caution comes amid what several senior Obama administration officials described as a rigorous internal debate inside the White House over whether sending more troops can clear Afghanistan of violent extremists and stabilize Pakistan.

Fifty-one American troops died in Afghanistan in August, making it the bloodiest month for the U.S. since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that toppled the ruling Taliban.

In an interview Tuesday with the Arab satellite TV station Al-Jazeera, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said, "There are issues on both sides of it, and frankly, I haven't made up my own mind at this point in terms of whether I think more forces are needed."

At the White House, Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said Tuesday that President Barack Obama is not expecting a request for additional forces from the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, for several more weeks.

Gibbs said Obama "will take into account the degree to which additional resources can be borne, not just by the public but also by those who are providing the resources. Obviously, there's been a tremendous strain on our military forces over the past several years."

Ranking members of congressional military oversight committees said they expected the Pentagon to brief them this week on McChrystal's classified assessment of the situation in Afghanistan. McChrystal is believed to have made the case for sending more troops — even without asking for specific numbers.

Earlier this year, Obama ordered 21,000 more troops to Afghanistan, which will bring the total number of U.S. forces there to 68,000 by the end of 2009.

The Obama administration also is grappling with the many allegations of vote fraud in the Aug. 20 Afghan presidential election. State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters the U.S. is not in position to say who might eventually be declared the winner or whether there should be a runoff election between the top two finishers. Afghan officials Tuesday released new returns that give President Hamid Karzai 54 percent of the vote with nearly all ballots tallied.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that Karl Eikenberry, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, told Karzai, "Dont declare victory."

Kelly said the most important thing is that the allegations of fraud be addressed in a way that gives ordinary Afghans confidence that the outcome of the voting is legitimate.

British commando killed attempting to free NYT reporter in Afghanistan

U.N.-backed commission found "convincing evidence" of fraud in presidential election.

By RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press Writer

KABUL — Western military officials in Afghanistan say a British commando was killed during a raid early today that freed a *New York Times* reporter from his Taliban captors.

Reporter Stephen Farrell was taken hostage along with his translator in the northern province of Kunduz on Saturday. German commanders had ordered an airstrike on two hijacked fuel tankers, and reporters traveled to the area to cover the story.

Two military officials told The Associated Press that one British commando died during the early morning raid. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the death had not been officially announced.

The Times reported that Farrell's Afghan translator also was killed during the raid.

Meanwhile, a U.N.-backed commission found "convincing evidence" of fraud Tuesday in Afghanistan's presidential election and ordered a recount of suspect ballots in at least three provinces, a process that could take months.

At the same time, Afghan officials released new returns that give President Hamid Karzai 54 percent of the vote with nearly all ballots tallied, enough to avoid a run-off unless large numbers of tainted ballots are ultimately thrown out.

The separate announcements from the complaints commission, which is dominated by U.N.-appointed Westerners, and the election commission, which is filled with Karzai appointees, could set the stage for a showdown.

The image of a crooked Afghan president rigging the vote threatens to discredit the entire U.S.-led mission here at a time when NATO casualties are mounting and American, European and Canadian voters are fatigued and disenchanted with the war.

"The perception of fraud will shorten the length of time that one can expect foreign support," said Ronald E. Neumann, a former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan. "People will just get disgusted. They'll say, 'Why do I sacrifice my son for a leadership that cannot rally the country fairly?'"

Four more U.S. troops were killed Tuesday during what the military labeled a "complex attack" in eastern Kunar province. August was already the deadliest month of the eight-year war for both U.S. troops and the entire NATO force at the hands of a resurgent Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

President Barack Obama is facing increasing resistance to the war at a time when he has little political capital to spare, and many supporters are urging him to scale back the U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

Associated Press

German soldiers get briefed prior to a mission outside Kunduz, Afghanistan, this morning. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the world should reserve judgment on whether civilians were killed in a German-ordered airstrike in Afghanistan, even as NATO said it believed that civilians had died in the attack.

Obama ordered 21,000 additional troops to the country this year with the immediate goal of ensuring a safe and credible election, and Gen. Stanley McChrystal will soon ask him to send thousands more. Those favoring an increased U.S. presence argue that the American troop buildup has not been given enough time to succeed.

Also in need of much more time is the process of sorting out the many allegations of vote fraud. State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said the most important thing is for the allegations to be addressed seriously.

Iraq fraud investigation is focusing on retired American Army colonel

Anthony B. Bell ran the contracting office in Baghdad during the early stages of Iraq's $125 billion reconstruction.

By RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal investigators are searching for suspicious transactions in the personal bank records of a retired Army colonel who ran the contracting office in Baghdad during the early stages of Iraq's $125 billion reconstruction.

The focus on Anthony B. Bell opens a window into the scope of a long-running inquiry of fraud and corruption that's gathering steam even as U.S. forces are beginning to leave the country.

While contracting procedures and oversight in Iraq have improved dramatically in recent years, that hasn't slowed investigators trying to piece together the scale of corruption that undermined the largest nation-building effort in U.S. history.

Bell is suspected by investigators of being a key figure in a loosely connected network of U.S. officials who allegedly steered contracts to companies that paid them millions of dollars in return.

According to federal court records, the special inspector general's office was told by an anonymous source in 2004 that Bell had allegedly accepted kickbacks on reconstruction contracts. The records do not specify the contracts or give the amounts of the payments.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Bell said he has no problem with the investigators looking through his records.

"I will gladly go to court with them anytime they want to bring me to court," he said.

As chief of the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority's contracting office from June 2003 to March 2004, Bell managed a critical arm of the U.S. presence in Iraq.

The office awarded scores of contracts quickly to get the country back on its feet. At the time, there was almost no oversight on how huge sums of cash were being spent, according to the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

That office, known as SIGIR, is involved in the current investigation along with the Justice Department, the Army Criminal Investigation Command and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

So far, there have been 46 convictions, including 16 involving military personnel, for criminal misconduct stemming from Iraq's rebuilding, which has been aided by $50 billion in U.S. tax dollars.

A spokesman for the inspector general for Iraq reconstruction declined to comment because the investigation is still open.

In late June, a U.S. magistrate cleared the way for investigators to examine Bell's financial records. Bell had initially resisted a subpoena for his records because the document had the incorrect account number and home address.

Bell is alleged to have received a multimillion-dollar payment from John Cockerham, an Army contracting officer who was stationed in Kuwait and other overseas locations. Cockerham hatched a bribery scheme that prosecutors say netted him $9.5 million that was stashed in bank accounts and safe deposit boxes.

Cockerham was indicted in August 2007 and pleaded guilty less than a year later to bribery, conspiracy and money laundering charges. He has not yet been sentenced.

The New York Times reported in February that Bell's name appeared in a private notebook kept by Cockerham.

In the interview with the AP, Bell denied accepting any bribes or payoffs from Cockerham. He did, however, offer a possible explanation for why his name might appear in Cockerham's notebook: After leaving Iraq in 2004, he took over an Army contracting office at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. In December 2005, following a long tour in Kuwait, Cockerham was assigned to Bell's office. Bell said he contacted Cockerham and Cockerham's former supervisors before he arrived to find out more about him just as anyone would do with a new employee.

Calls to Cockerham's attorney were not returned.

Federal agents have also examined the financial records of Ronald W. Hirtle, an Air Force lieutenant colonel who was a contracting officer in the Baghdad office from February through June 2004. Hirtle's tenure briefly overlapped with Bell's.

In an interview, Hirtle said the agents found nothing improper. Hirtle also said the investigators urged him to take a lie-detector test. According to Hirtle, he took it and passed.

No charges have been filed against Hirtle, who retired from the military in July after a 20-year career.

He denied any wrongdoing and said he didn't witness any improper behavior while in Iraq.

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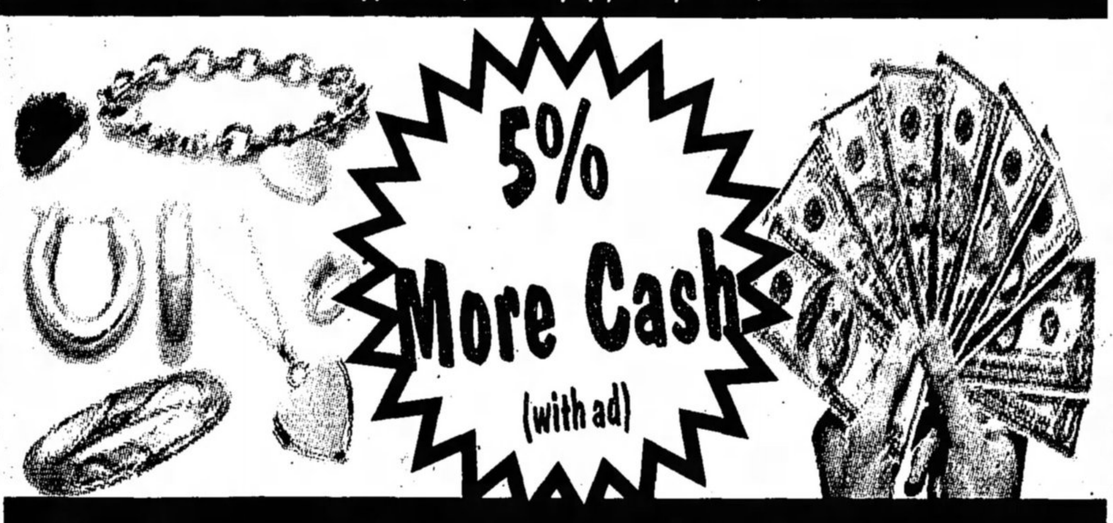

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NEWS

Weddings rise as numbers align on 9-9-9

9-9-9 is traditionally a lucky and popular wedding date.

By OSKAR GARCIA
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Two years after hitting the wedding date jackpot with lucky sevens, it's all eyes on the nines in Las Vegas for 9-9-09.

Wedding officials in Sin City were preparing today for one of the busiest days of the year on a quirky date to get hitched — Sept. 9, 2009, or 9-9-09.

Jessica Skrutvold of Las Vegas said she and her husband-to-be Chad Lyons were expecting nine guests for their 9 p.m. wedding, which coincidentally celebrates her favorite number.

"The easiest day for my poor memory to remember was 9-9-09, and we've been doing everything last minute ever since," said the 31-year-old who works for a local insurance agency. "It was easy, and both of us can remember it and never forget."

Skrutvold said she called to book a chapel in March, and found the only open slots were for 8:30 or 9 that night.

"We took the most obvious choice," she said.

Nine couples were to marry at the Madame Tussauds wax museum on the Las Vegas Strip at 9:09 a.m., while 99 more were waiting until 9:09 p.m. for a shared ceremony in the observation deck at the Stratosphere Tower. Each paid $99 for their wedding package.

Chapel of the Flowers spokeswoman Whitney Lloyd said the chapel booked 70 ceremonies for today, compared with 12 on Sept. 9 last year. She said three 9 a.m. slots were booked at least one year ago — an eternity by Las Vegas standards.

"Grooms love it, because they'll definitely remember their wedding day," Lloyd said.

Employees normally off on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the marriage services division of the Clark County clerk's office were called in to help quickly distribute licenses, Marriage Services Supervisor Cheryl Vernon said.

Vernon said 418 marriage licenses were issued Monday and another 416 were issued Tuesday by mid-afternoon, with the bureau staying open until midnight. The bureau issues an average of about 260 licenses per day.

While today was shaping up to be a busy wedding day, officials didn't think it would be as lucrative as July 7 two years ago or Aug. 8 last year, as weddings have declined for Sin City since 2004.

Couples often are surprised to find a line when they arrive at the bureau intending to marry on a quirky day, Vernon said.

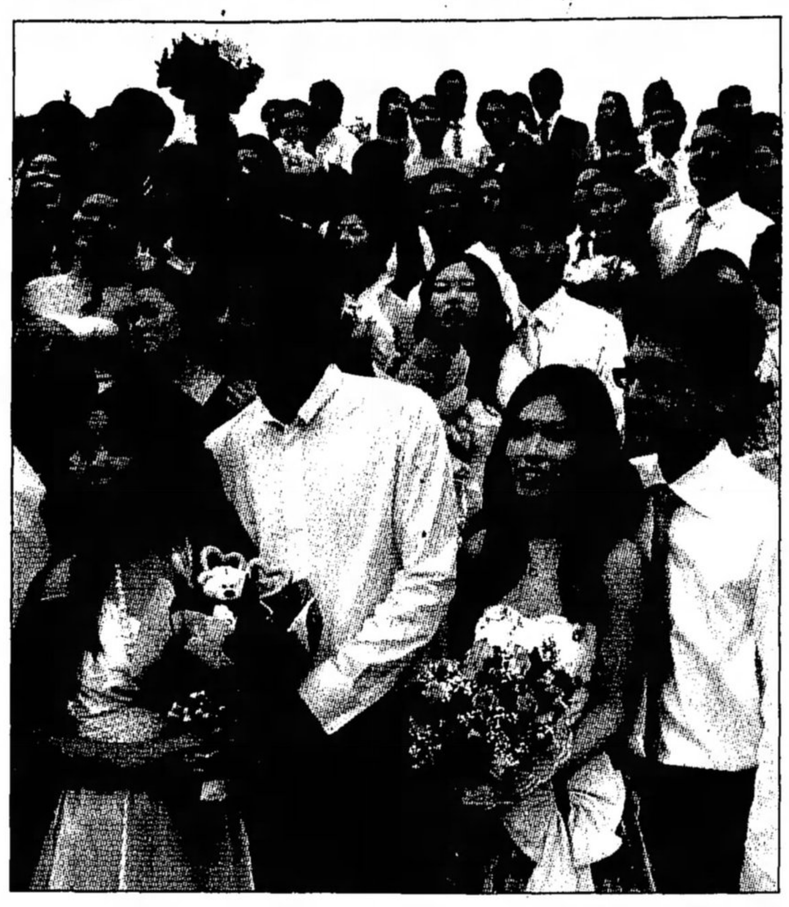
"They think that the number combinations, that they're the only ones that thought of it," she said. "They're always surprised."

Nevada law allows couples to get their marriage license and wed on the same day, though the documents remain valid for 10 days after they are first issued.

In Hollywood, the day became lucky for at least nine couples who won a 99 Cents Only Stores promotion in which they paid only 99 cents to be wed in the company's Hollywood store on 9-9-09. For their 99 cents, the nine lucky brides received wedding gowns made out of T-shirts, table cloths and other items sold at 99 Cent stores.

After exchanging their vows in Aisle 9, the brides and their husbands were to be treated to a reception inside the store.

They were also being awarded honeymoon packages worth a good deal more than 99 cents, including a stay at a fancy hotel, dinner at an upscale restaurant and professional wedding photos.



Associated Press

Newly wed couples wait for a photo session during a mass wedding ceremony today at the Thean Hou temple in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Nearly 200 couples tie the knot there on the special date 9-9-9.

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Big Ben's accuser offers deal to drop her lawsuit

She wants him to admit assault, write apology and donate $100,000 for abused women.

By MICHAEL HASCH
For The Valley Independent
mhasch@tribweb.com

The woman who claims Ben Roethlisberger sexually assaulted her at a Nevada resort has offered to drop her civil lawsuit if he admits that the assault occurred and writes a letter of apology.

The Steelers quarterback also must agree to pay $100,000 to the Committee to Aid Abused Women or some similar entity, according to a letter that the woman's attorney, Calvin Dunlap, wrote to Roethlisberger's lawyers Aug. 31 and submitted to a Nevada court Friday in the latest in a series of court filings in the case.

The woman claims Roethlisberger sexually assaulted her July 11, 2008, at the Harrah's Lake Tahoe Hotel and Casino, where she worked as a VIP concierge and he was attending a celebrity golf tournament. She filed a civil lawsuit in Reno in July of this year.

Roethlisberger, 27, has denied assaulting the 31-year-old woman, who has never gone to police. *The Valley Independent* does not name alleged victims of sexual assault.

Dunlap wrote in court documents that he was submitting a copy of his letter to Roethlisberger's attorneys to rebut "unfounded and false suggestions that (the woman) has brought this suit for the purpose of 'extorting' a large monetary recovery."

"Plaintiff's only interest has been and is to regain the dignity that was taken from her," wrote Dunlap, who agreed to waive his fees and costs if Roethlisberger agrees to the settlement.

Roethlisberger's attorneys could not be reached for comment Tuesday night.

Corbett set to announce gubernatorial candidacy

Republican attorney general expected to make announcement on Monday.

By DEBRA ERDLEY
For The Valley Independent
derdley@tribweb.com

Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett will make it official on Monday in Pittsburgh.

Corbett, 60, of Shaler invited Republican Committee members Tuesday to be on hand Sept. 14 when he makes a political announcement at the Sen. John Heinz History Center in the Strip District, likely to formalize his all-but-formal candidacy for the 2010 gubernatorial nomination.

"The message just said it will be an announcement. My guess is he'll announce formally that he's going to run for governor," said Allegheny County Republican Committee Chairman Jim Roddey.

Corbett spokesman Brian Nutt confirmed Corbett will announce his decision, but wouldn't elaborate.

Many believe his entry into the Republican gubernatorial primary is a foregone conclusion.

A two-term attorney general, Corbett in March formed an exploratory committee for a gubernatorial bid. He has traveled the state and conferred with party leaders for months. He's scheduled to appear at a $250 per person fundraiser tonight in Peters.

"He's well-known across the state. He's run two statewide races already and won two — this last one at a time when most Republicans were defeated. He's going to be a very formidable candidate," predicted Joseph DiSarro, chairman of the political science department and Washington & Jefferson College.

DiSarro believes Corbett would campaign from a position of strength. Patrick Meehan, former U.S. attorney from Philadelphia, who was considered Corbett's biggest potential challenger, recently announced he'll forgo that race to seek election to the congressional seat U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak is leaving to pursue a Senate bid.

The other Republican considering a gubernatorial bid, U.S. Rep. Jim Gerlach of Chester, lacks Corbett's statewide recognition and money-raising ability, DiSarro said.

Gerlach, a former state senator, cited a recent Franklin & Marshall poll that showed 73 percent of Republican voters are undecided about the GOP gubernatorial race.

"That tells me it's a very open situation," Gerlach said. "... I like where we are. We've put a pretty good team together."

Corbett, a former U.S. attorney in Pittsburgh, served as interim attorney general from 1995-97. He returned to private law practice, before his election in 2004 as attorney general.

His office became the nexus of a political maelstrom in 2007 when he began an investigation into allegations that legislators awarded bonuses to staffers for campaign work on public time.

Terrible start for Duke

Zach Duke surrendered eight hits before he recorded an out in Tuesday's loss to the Cubs. **2B**

Valley SPORTS

Nadal advances at U.S. Open

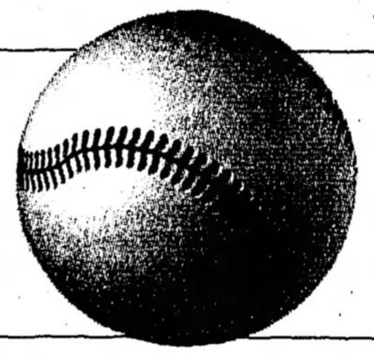
Rafael Nadal says Tuesday's four-set win was good for his confidence. **2B**

Lady Cougars win

Mara Spina picked up the game-winning goal as the Charleroi girls slipped by Geibel. **3B**

Sports Trivia

Who are the only three Pittsburgh Steelers to play 200 or more games for the team? **2B**



Last night's score

Philadelphia 5, Washington 3
Florida 4, N.Y. Mets 2
Atlanta 2, Houston 1
St. Louis 4, Milwaukee 3
Colorado 3, Cincinnati 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, Arizona 4

Brian **HERMAN**

Star back overshadows Montana's son

Cleaning out the notebook:

■ Joe Montana's son, Nick, had to take a back seat to running back Malcolm Jones in Oaks Christian High's opening 28-17 win over Alemany in California.

While Montana was completing 12 of 26 passes for 142 yards and one touchdown, Jones was running for 268 yards on 37 carries and scored three touchdowns.

Jones, who has 72 career TDs, is considered the top running back in the country.

Oaks Christian opened the season ranked seventh in the country by USA Today.

The Lions feature at least six national recruits, including Montana and offensive lineman Erik Kohler, who've already committed to the University of Washington,

This year's Oaks Christian team is being mentioned in the same breath with the 2006 team, headed by Notre Dame quarterback Jimmie Claussen and Southern Cal running back Marshall Jones — Malcolm's older brother — that went 42-0 in four seasons with four Southern Section championships and the Division III Bowl title.

The 2006 Lions had nine players land Division I scholarships.

■ Speaking of rankings, Rochester moved up one spot to No. 1 in the state in Class A with its win over Monessen while Clairton, the Greyhounds' next opponent, dropped from the top spot to seventh with its loss to Laurel.

Monessen, which was ninth, fell out of the top 10 with Serra going from eighth to fifth, Laurel moving in at sixth and North Catholic slipping from fifth to ninth.

■ One of Ohio's top young cross-country runners is Bobby Johnson III.

He's the grandson of 1960 Monongahela High graduate and football star Bob Johnson, who was inducted in the Mid Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame three years ago.

An eighth grader at McDonald Junior High, which is located between Youngstown and Warren, Johnson is 4-0 this season and coming off a winning time of 11:25.10 in the 2,000-meter run, topping a field of 119 at the Maplewood Invitational.

On the subject of area relatives, Chris Paglia — who's one of the state's premier high school soccer defenders at Bethel Park and is the kicker on the defending WPIAL Quad A championship Blackhawks' football team — is the son of former California High baseball standout Rick Paglia.

Paglia is a four-year starter for the booters.

■ And thanks to Jim Stump, of Rostraver Township, who says some people bring happiness wherever they go; others whenever they do!

Steelers finally get rematch

Titans' playoff upset prevented the projected AFC championship game.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

> "Being we beat the Super Bowl champions and never had a chance to compete and go play for the Super Bowl left a bad taste in our mouth."
>
> Chris Hope

PITTSBURGH — Finally, they're getting around in September to playing the game that was predicted to take place for the AFC championship in January.

Tennessee's 31-14 rout of Pittsburgh on Dec. 21 convinced the Titans that they were the AFC's best team, although the Steelers came in flat following a rugged stretch of games. Almost immediately, the Steelers began eagerly awaiting a rematch.

It never happened. The Titans never won again, losing their final regular season game to the Colts and their divisional playoff game to Baltimore. The Steelers never lost again, beating the Ravens for the AFC title before going on to win a record sixth Super Bowl.

A Super Bowl the Titans no doubt believe they would have won if they had gotten there.

"Being we beat the Super Bowl champions and never had a chance to compete and go play for the Super Bowl left a bad taste in our mouth," said Titans safety Chris Hope, a former Steelers player.

As for the Steelers, they laugh at any talk that Thursday night's NFL season opener will be the real AFC championship game.

Uhh, not quite.

"Last year was last year," running back Willie Parker said. "I guess you can say they did what they did because they felt they were the best team at that time. We would have loved to play them again, but it didn't happen that way. We went our way to the Super Bowl, and they — well, whatever happened to them. You can't think about last year."

That's been a recurring theme since the Steelers' training camp began, to put last year's season and the Super Bowl far into the past. Coach Mike Tomlin virtually mandated there be no mention of it.

Titans coach Jeff Fisher took a similar tact, all but putting a gag order on his players preventing them from talking about last season's game or the sideline stomping of the Steelers' Terrible Towel by several players, including running back LenDale White.

White apparently didn't get the message, irritating some teammates by bragging he'd gladly do some more towel tromping in Pittsburgh if given the chance.

"I don't think he's trash talking. I think that episode is over with," Fisher said. "I don't think it's going to be an issue (as far as) the game is concerned. It didn't seem to have a too awfully dramatic effect on their organization or their football team last year."

The Steelers also are taking a don't-stir-things up approach, with defensive lineman Casey Hampton saying, "They beat us. They got the bragging rights. If they've got something to say, then they can say it. I know I would."

Still, given the NFL's annual player turnover rate of about 30 percent, this is about as close to a rematch as is possible given the time lapse. The Titans lost only one starter on each side of the ball, although the loss of offense-disrupting tackle Albert Haynesworth to a $100 million contract from Washington is about as big as it gets.

The Steelers are replacing three starters, though there are no guarantees any would have kept their jobs.

Personality wise, these teams simply don't change, and certainly not in nine months' time.

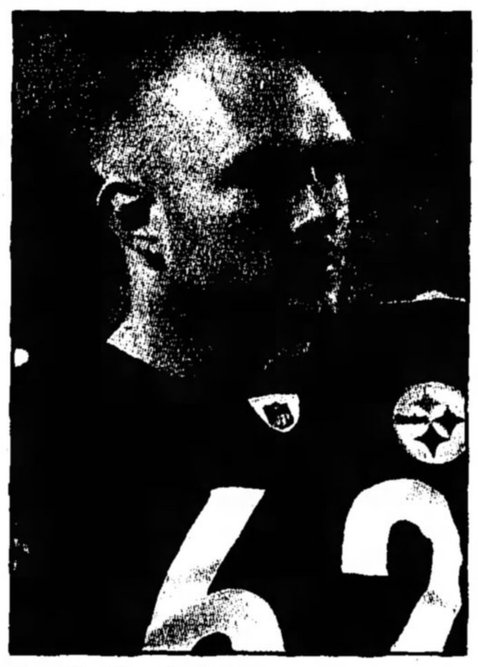
Under Fisher, the Titans lean on their running game and a defense that is one of the NFL's best; they allowed an average of only 14.6 points last season.

The Steelers, no matter the coach, like to control the clock, keep the opposing defense on the field and play the NFL's best defense; they allowed 13.9 points per game last season.

"We go into every season with the attitude that we're going to be the best unit out there on the field throughout the season," linebacker James Farrior said of a defense that was the NFL's best statistically the last two seasons. "This year is no different. We've got high expectations, even higher than we had last year."

A season ago, the Steelers

(See STEELERS, Page 2B)



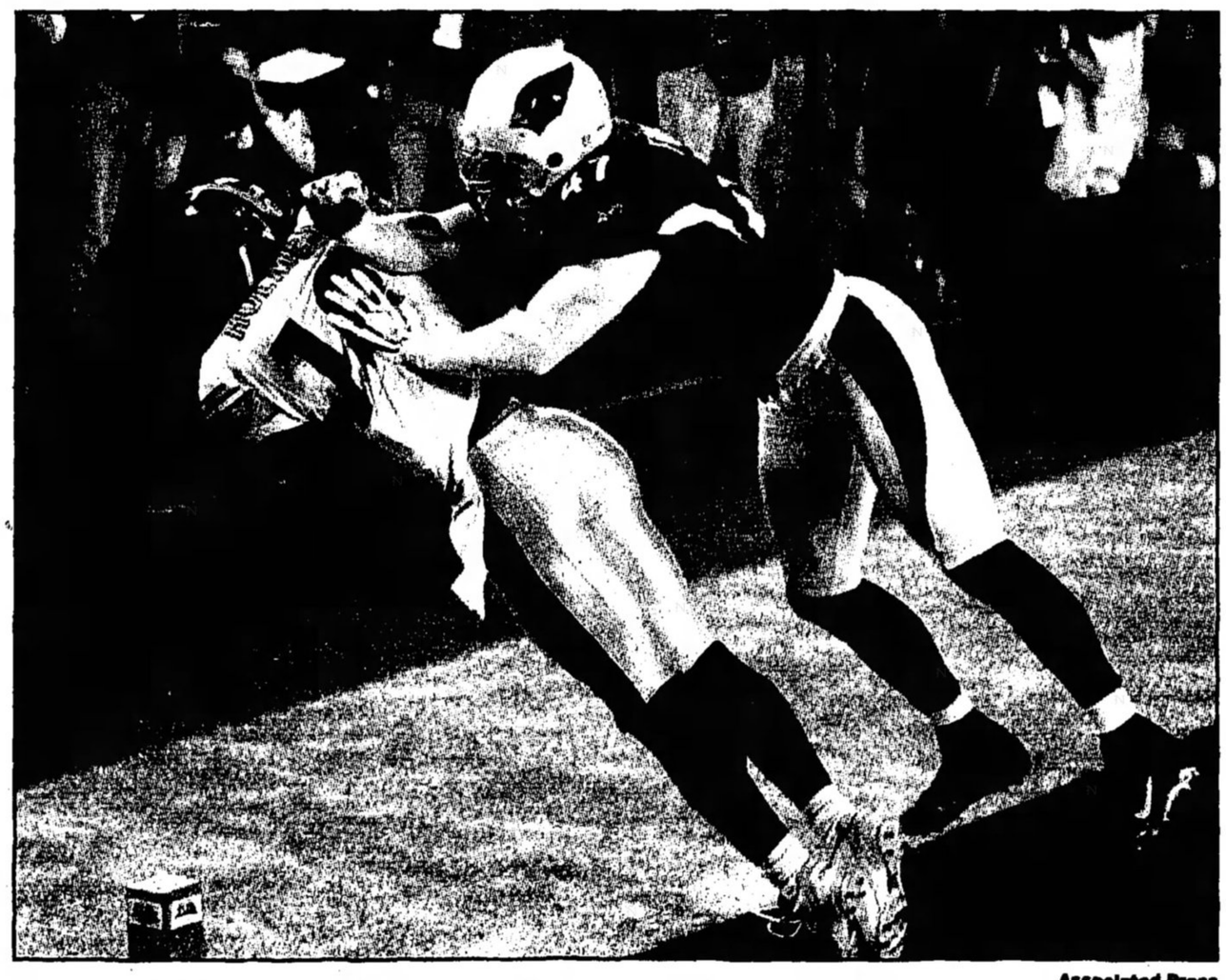
Justin Hartwig

New four-year deal for Hartwig

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Steelers center Justin Hartwig has signed a four-year contract on Tuesday, two days before the season opener against Tennessee.

The Steelers have a policy of not negotiating with players once a season begins, so Hartwig's deal — which runs through 2012 — is likely the last until the offseason.

Hartwig enters his second season as the Steelers' center and eighth in the NFL. He has started 79 career games, including some with Tennessee and Carolina. Hartwig was a sixth-round pick by Tennessee in 2002 and signed with Pittsburgh after being cut by Carolina following the 2007 season.



Associated Press

Santonio Holmes drags his feet while making the game-winning catch in Super Bowl XLIII.

Holmes' play doesn't need catch phrase

Game-winning reception is among top moments in Super Bowl history.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — There's no catchy nickname for it — The Catch, after all, is taken by the 49ers' Dwight Clark. That's all right with Santonio Holmes, who is fast realizing that a catch phrase won't be needed for people to remember his play of a lifetime.

Second-and-goal at the Cardinals 6, 42 seconds to go. The Steelers, down 23-20 in the Super Bowl, are in scoring range only because of Ben Roethlisberger's 40-yard completion to Holmes two plays before. Immediately after that, on first down, Roethlisberger's pass sails above Holmes' outstretched hands in the left corner of the end zone.

This time, Roethlisberger looks right and spots Holmes in the back of the end zone along the right sideline. As three defenders converge, Holmes makes the catch, managing to drag his left foot and tap his right foot in-bounds at the

(See HOLMES, Page 2B)

Marando's 3 goals lead Hounds

Breakaway late in the first half sparks Monessen's 4-1 win at Brentwood.

Thanks to Sam Marando, Monessen opened the Class A Section 4 season on a winning note.

Marando scored three goals to lead the Greyhounds to a 4-1 victory at Brentwood Tuesday.

The Greyhounds and Spartans were locked in a scoreless game until the final minute of the first half when Marando connected.

"We scored with 19 seconds left in the first half when Sam scored on a breakaway to get us going," said Monessen coach Sam Perry. "I thought we played well tonight and the kids are getting familiar with each other."

"Winning our section opener on the road is big for us."

Alex Picarelli had the other Monessen goal. Greyhounds' goalkeeper Eric McFeely had 11 saves.

Monessen (2-1) hosts Bentworth Thursday at 4 p.m.

Soccer roundup

Belle Vernon Area 1, Thomas Jefferson 1

The Leps had to settle for a tie in their Class AA Section 3 debut.

Trailing 1-0 with five minutes left in the contest, Mark Tomich scored to tying goal.

"The kids played extremely well and it was the best game we played all year," said BVA coach Chris Stasicha. "Our defense held TJ's offense in check. I am so proud of the kids."

The Leopards (3-1-1) go to Uniontown

California 1, Brownsville 0

The Trojans stayed unbeaten with a narrow win in their Class A Section 1 opener.

Skylar Boehm scored late for Cal (3-0).

"We let them hang around but Skylar gave us the goal we needed," said Cal coach Adam Obranovich.

The Trojans host unbeaten Geibel Thursday.

Southmoreland 3, Elizabeth Forward 2

The Warriors couldn't hold a 2-1 halftime lead in their Class AA Section 3 opener.

Tyler Abels had both goals for the Warriors to raise his season total to six.

"They scored 15 and 20 minutes into the second half," said Elizabeth coach Dave King. "We just couldn't get one home to tie it."

The Warriors (2-2) visit Steel Valley Thursday.

SPORTS

Pirates honor Arnold Palmer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Arnold Palmer was honored by the Pittsburgh Pirates in celebration of his 80th birthday before the team's game against the Chicago Cubs Tuesday night.

Palmer is from Latrobe, about an hour east of Pittsburgh, and turns 80 on Thursday.

While being interviewed on field by broadcaster Jim Nantz, Palmer spoke of being at Forbes Field in 1960 when Bill Mazeroski hit a home run in the bottom of the ninth inning of Game 7 of the World Series against the New York Yankees.

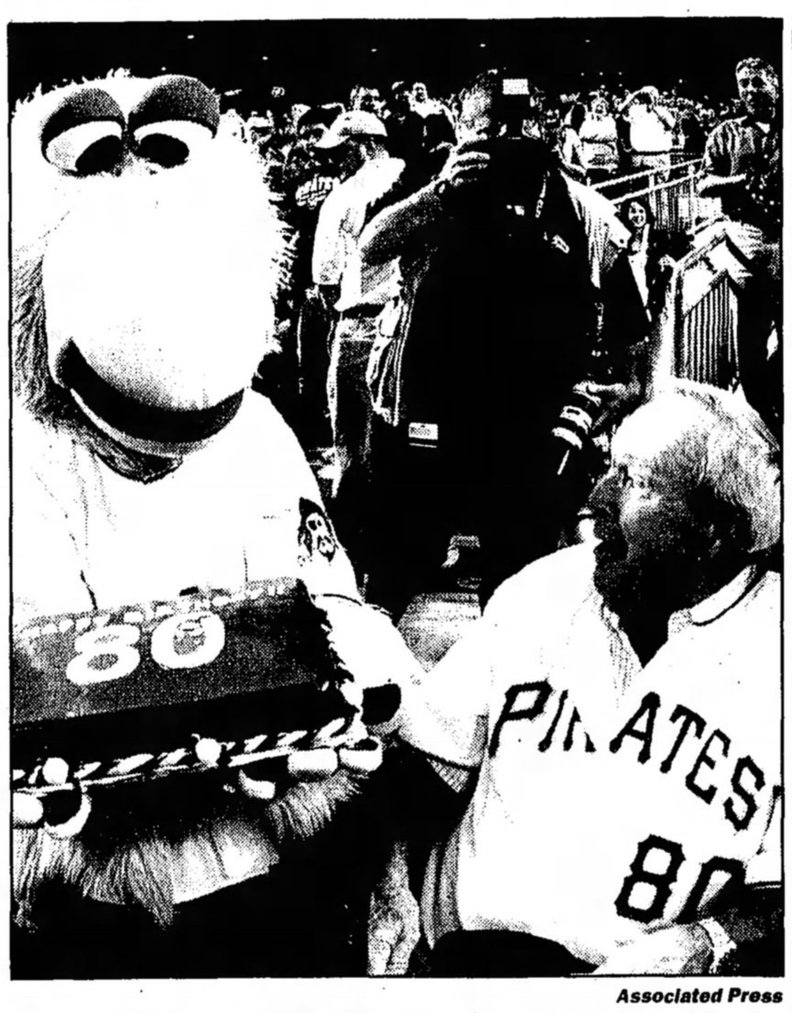
Dressed in a No. 80 Pirates jersey and flanked by members of his family and Pirates president Frank Coonelly and owner Bob Nutting, Palmer received at least two long ovations upon introduction and a video tribute.

Pirates pitcher Paul Maholm, team broadcaster and former pitcher Steve Blass and professional golfer Peter Jacobsen took part in a "closest to the pin" contest on the field while players from both teams watched from the dugouts.

Jacobsen was the only participant to hit the "pin" — really team mascot the Pirate Parrot — in center field on a shot from near home plate, earning money for charity.

PNC Bank's gift to Palmer was making a $1 million donation to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh in the name of Palmer and his family, and fans sang "Happy Birthday" during the first inning break.

The original 7:05 start of the game was delayed 11 minutes due to the ceremony.



Associated Press

Arnold Palmer, right, is surprised by the Pirate Parrot and a birthday cake in his seat behind home plate during the Pirates' game Tuesday.

Nadal ousts Monfils in 4 sets

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — If Rafael Nadal was hurting, it didn't show. If he was vulnerable, it didn't last.

Running into an opponent who could match him fist pump for fist pump, but not quite groundstroke for groundstroke, Nadal got stronger as the match went on in a hard-earned, fourth-round win Tuesday night at the U.S. Open.

It was a 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 victory over No. 13 Gael Monfils, a Frenchman who feeds off the crowd in New York and has the talent, but not the stamina yet, to put on a great show against the world's best.

"An important match for the confidence," Nadal said.

The first two sets were some of the most entertaining tennis of the tournament, full of stinging forehands and squeakily precise footwork. And when Monfils started asking for more noise on set point in the first — while Nadal was getting ready to serve — it brought some edginess to a match that could have been routine.

"Against Rafa, I have to improve physically, get stronger," Monfils said. "Maybe I'm good for an hour and 30 minutes. Now I have to improve to be good for maybe two hours and a half."

Before he ran out of gas, Monfils got his set. But Nadal won the match and there were no injury timeouts or signs that his stomach muscles or his knees — the two problem points this week and this summer — were any problem.

He did have a patch on his abdomen, shown off when he changed shirts at the end of the match, then got an unwanted kiss from a male fan who ran onto the court from the stands. The fan was arrested and the U.S. Open vowed to review its security procedures.

Nadal said he didn't have a problem with it.

"He said 'I love you,' and he kissed me," Nadal said.

Besides that security breach, it was a good-news day for the third-seeded Spaniard. He took the court a few hours after Britain's favorite, No. 2 Andy Murray, put in a lackluster effort in a 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 upset loss to No. 16 Marin Cilic — a setback Murray called the most disappointing of his career.

The right-hander who hits a two-handed backhand said his left wrist was hurting — he could be seen grabbing it and wincing in pain during a changeover — but didn't blame that for his loss.

"Sometimes, if you play badly or whatever, you don't find a way back into the match," Murray said. "Sometimes that can happen. I don't think I'm perfect."

The Murray loss leaves Nadal as the highest seeded player on that side of the draw, and also means he'll jump ahead of Murray when the next rankings are released. After missing about two months, including Wimbledon, to rest his sore knees, Nadal is getting stronger with each match.

Cubs' barrage buries Bucs

Chicago starts Tuesday's game with 8 straight hits.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — In the midst of a disappointing season, the Chicago Cubs started a game like no team has in almost two decades.

Aramis Ramirez, Geovany Soto and Kosuke Fukudome had two-run hits in a record-tying first inning and the Cubs handed the hapless Pittsburgh Pirates their 11th loss in 12 games, 9-4 on Tuesday night.

Chicago tied a major league record with eight consecutive hits to start the game. The most recent team to do that was the New York Yankees, on Sept. 25, 1990 against the Baltimore Orioles.

"We came out swinging the bats," Chicago manager Lou Piniella said. "Base hits, base hits, base hits"

Micah Hoffpauir hit his ninth homer and Jeff Baker went 3 for 4 with a walk for the Cubs, who have won three of four in their quest to stay in the NL wild card race.

Garrett Jones hit his 19th homer for the Pirates, who are 18-42 since July 1. They established a record among major North American professional sports teams by clinching their 17th straight losing season Monday.

Arnold Palmer, a native of Latrobe, Pa., was honored in an elaborate pregame ceremony celebrating his 80th birthday. Before he could get to his seat the Cubs had scored six runs before an out was even recorded.

"I've never really seen anything like that, but it happened," Pirates manager John Russell said. "It was just one of those things where we couldn't stop it, You can't explain it. It was just bad luck or good hitting, I don't know what it is."

The first five batters reached against Zach Duke via softly hit balls that either found their way through the infield or were placed fortuitously enough to lead to infield hits. Ramirez's chopper through the left side drove in two runs.

"Its funny, too, because Zach's a heck of a pitcher," said leadoff batter Ryan Theriot, who went 2 for 5 with a run and an RBI. "He's definitely not a guy you want to go out there and face on a daily basis.

"Things weren't going his way, for sure, and we were just finding holes. Off a pitcher like Zach, you really don't expect something like that to happen. The ball was bouncing our way. That's how this game works, and it was in our favor in the first inning, for sure."

Soto, the sixth batter, smashed a double off the wall in right-center that drove in two more.

Fukudome followed with a two-run double down the left-field line, giving the Cubs a 6-0 lead, and Bobby Scales then hit another infield single. Pitcher Ryan Dempster laid down a sacrifice bunt, eliciting sarcastic cheers from the sparse crowd of 17,862. A seventh run scored during the inning on a groundout.

Dempster was kidded by teammates that he was going to be fined for not breaking the record with a hit (though he did have an RBI single in the seventh).

"It's a pretty good feeling when your team runs off eight hits in a row and scores seven runs before you even take the mound," Dempster said. "It takes a lot of pressure off anybody. It was fun to watch the guys do that."

Dempster (9-8) was effective for 6 1-3 innings, allowing four runs, eight hits and two walks with four strikeouts to win for the third time in his past four starts.

Through his first 25 starts of the season, Duke (10-14) had gone at least five innings every time, and at least six innings all but twice. In two of his past three outings, he was knocked out of the game early.

On Tuesday, he was charged with eight runs and 12 hits in four innings. He has lost five of his past six decisions and is 2-9 since beginning the season 8-5.

"I really don't know how to explain today," Duke said. "There was one ball hit hard — Soto's ball off the wall — and other than that, things just seemed to find holes."

REMEMBER when?

Ringgold's Keith Bassi shared the Mon Valley Conference scoring title in 1973 with Monessen's Joe Como. Both scored 66 points that season on 11 touchdowns.

Holmes (FROM PAGE ONE)

same time. It is one of the best clutch catches in Super Bowl history, and it secures the Steelers' record sixth Super Bowl title.

A catch this good doesn't need a name. The image of it that remains with anyone who watched the game is enough.

"That's going to be with me the rest of my life," Holmes said. "When I'm dead and gone, people still will remember the Super Bowl catch."

Maybe it won't be recalled in Pittsburgh with the same reverence as, say, Franco Harris' Immaculate Reception against Oakland in 1972, but Holmes couldn't go anywhere during the offseason without being reminded of it. He couldn't go out among friends or family, couldn't go to dinner, couldn't go online.

"Everywhere I go—MySpace, Facebook — everyone's sending messages, 'That was a great catch' and 'That was a great game,'" Holmes said.

That's also part of Holmes' challenge as the former first-round draft pick from Ohio State, known as 'Tone to his teammates, begins his fourth NFL season.

Namely, how does he top making a remarkable catch to win the Super Bowl?

Catch 120 passes? Not going to happen in the Steelers' offense. Make 20 touchdown catches? Not going to happen in the Steelers offense. Win the Super Bowl again? That, he believes, could happen.

Holmes still hasn't had a 1,000-yard receiving season, which is viewed as the benchmark for success by an NFL receiver, but that's also partly the result of the Steelers' spread-it-around system. Hines Ward, the leading receiver in club history, hadn't had one since 2004 until he had 1,043 yards receiving last season.

"Hines reiterates that to me a lot; you can't expect big numbers," said Holmes, who has 156 receptions in three seasons. "You just go out and play hard and take it for what it's worth."

What offensive coordinator Bruce Arians likes is he's seeing the play-to-play consistency he has sought from Holmes, in route running, blocking and being on target with his quarterback.

"He's building on it (the Super Bowl)," Arians said. "It's very good to see. The consistency is there. You'd hope for that with him, and that he'd take last year's success and build on it. ... That word consistency has been a big word with him and I the last couple of years."

Holmes missed the final two preseason games after taking a helmet to the back Aug. 22 against Washington, but he expects to be fine for Thursday's season opener against the Titans, who beat the Steelers 31-14 on Dec. 21. The Steelers didn't lose again; the Titans did, to Baltimore in the divisional round.

"It shows you the caliber of guys who get the job done," Holmes of the Steelers bouncing back from that loss to win their second Super Bowl in four seasons.

To try to win a third in five seasons, Holmes said the Steelers must have the kind of playmaking they've become to expect from Roethlisberger. The quarterback may have had a down season statistically a year ago while facing a difficult schedule, yet he repeatedly found a way to win games.

"He's the head of our train," Holmes said. "If he derails, the rest of the team probably falls back."

Steelers (FROM PAGE ONE)

finished fewer than 70 yards away from leading the NFL in overall, passing and rushing defense.

If Titans quarterback Kerry Collins can't throw against the Steelers — he had only four games of 200 yards or more last season — White might be too busy to go looking for untended Terrible Towels. Pro Bowl running back Chris Johnson rushed for 1,228 yards and White ran for 773, but they'll be going against a defense that was second against the run.

Not that it's likely to matter.

"Every year, every game, records are irrelevant," Steelers safety Troy Polamalu said. "Prestige and rings are irrelevant. Once the game starts, all that is irrelevant."

SPORTS DIGEST

Ringgold girls lose to TJ, 3-0

The Ringgold Lady Rams open Class AAA Section 5 play at Canon-McMillan following a 3-0 loss at Thomas Jefferson Tuesday.

"We played a very good team and we just happened to play our worst game so far," said Ringgold coach Tom Cameron.

The loss dropped the Lady Rams to 2-2.

BVA, Monessen basketball winners

The Belle Vernon Area and Monessen Middle School girls' basketball teams opened the season with wins Tuesday.

Ashley Seman had seven points and Kaitlyn Soutter, Samantha Mendicino and Bria Rathway six each in Belle Vernon Area's 46-5 romp over Bentworth.

Mariah Johnson's six points were high in Monessen's 16-10 victory over Brownsville.

California booters split with Gannon

California University's soccer teams continue to go in opposite directions in the PSAC West. In a doubleheader with Gannon at Roadman Park, the women remained unbeaten with a 3-1 victory with the men losing 4-1. Carina Honeygosky, Sam Regney and Amanda Heiser were the goal scorers for California (4-0, 3-0).

With her 70th career point, Heister climbed to fourth on the school's all-time scoring list.

Justin Taucher scored in the Vulcans' loss on an assist from Mike Luecke. With 109 career points, Luecke is tied for fourth with Pete Kariotis.

The Cal men (3-2, 0-2) go to Mercyhurst Friday for a 4 p.m. contest with the Cal women at Mercyhurst Saturday at 5 p.m.

Cal golfers sixth at Laker Classic

California University's women golfers finished sixth in the 16-team Laker Fall Classic in Allendale, Mich., hosted by Grand Valley State. Junior Jenna Rothermel looked best for the Vulcans with a 14-over par 158 to finish tied for ninth out of 96 golfers.

Fall softball league in Donora

Teams are needed for a fall softball league in Donora with games on Saturdays at the annex fields. The season will start Sept. 19. Interested teams should contact Jim Jakela (724-379-8048 or 724-288-4711).

Trivia answer

Mike Webster (220), Donnie Shell (201) and Mel Blount (200).

SPORTS DIGEST

30 Years Ago

Brian Chorba's 22-yard TD pass to Dave Legg with 22 seconds remaining gave Belle Vernon Area a 17-10 Big 9 Conference opening win over Ringgold.

The Pittsburgh Pirates announced a ticket sale for the National League championship series. Reserved seats were $8 and general admission $4.

20 Years Ago

Ringgold posted its first win ever over Mt. Lebanon, 22-10. Scoring touchdowns for the Rams were Tyrell Satterfield (80 yard run and 9-yard pass from Ryan Cook) and Anthony Peterson (31-yard run).

Belle Vernon Area blanked Chartiers Valley, 14-0, with Craig Fayak throwing a 10-yard touchdown pass tom Dan Kovatch and Mike Metikosh going over from one yard out.

Darrell Harding ran for 125 yards and two touchdowns and Nick Milchovich added 91 yards and one score in Charleroi's 34-6 romp over Bentworth.

Butch Duncan completed four of eight passes for 204 yards and four touchdowns in Monessen's 60-16 rout over West Greene. Bryan Coles scored TDs on a 65-yard interception return and 30 yard run and also threw a 35-yard TD pass to Ryan Miller.

10 Years Ago

Shellie Cotton and Leslie King both scored two goals in Charleroi's 7-0 win over Beth-Center.

Jen Pergola had three goals in Ringgold's 4-0 victory over Albert Gallatin.

SPORTS

Major League Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	78	58	.574	—
Florida	73	65	.529	6
Atlanta	71	67	.514	8
New York	62	76	.449	17
Washington	47	91	.341	32

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	83	57	.593	—
Chicago	70	67	.511	11 1/2
Houston	67	71	.486	15
Milwaukee	66	72	.478	16
Cincinnati	63	75	.457	19
Pittsburgh	54	83	.394	27 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	83	57	.593	—
Colorado	79	60	.568	3 1/2
San Francisco	76	63	.547	6 1/2
San Diego	62	78	.443	21
Arizona	61	79	.436	22

Tuesday's Games

Chicago Cubs 9, Pittsburgh 4
Philadelphia 5, Washington 3
Florida 4, N.Y. Mets 2
Atlanta 2, Houston 1
St. Louis 4, Milwaukee 3
Colorado 3, Cincinnati 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, Arizona 4
San Diego 4, San Francisco 3

Today's Games

Chicago Cubs (Zambrano 7-6) at Pittsburgh (K.Hart 4-5), 12:35 p.m.
St. Louis (Wainwright 17-7) at Milwaukee (Suppan 6-8), 2:05 p.m.
San Diego (LeBlanc 1-1) at San Francisco (Zito 9-11), 3:45 p.m.
Philadelphia (Cl.Lee 5-2) at Washington (Mock 3-7), 7:05 p.m.
Florida (Nolasco 10-8) at N.Y. Mets (Misch 1-1), 7:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Hanson 9-3) at Houston (W.Rodriguez 13-9), 8:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Arroyo 12-12) at Colorado (Hammel 8-7), 8:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Garland 9-11) at Arizona (Haren 13-8), 10:10 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	90	50	.643	—
Boston	80	58	.580	9
Tampa Bay	72	67	.518	17 1/2
Toronto	62	76	.449	27
Baltimore	56	82	.406	33

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	75	62	.547	—
Minnesota	69	69	.500	6 1/2
Chicago	69	71	.493	7 1/2
Cleveland	60	78	.435	15 1/2
Kansas City	53	85	.384	22 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	82	55	.599	—
Texas	78	60	.565	4 1/2
Seattle	72	67	.518	11
Oakland	62	76	.449	20 1/2

Tuesday's Games

Texas 11, Cleveland 9, 1st game
N.Y. Yankees 3, Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 6, Minnesota 3
Boston 10, Baltimore 0
Kansas City 7, Detroit 5
Oakland 11, Chicago White Sox 3
Texas 10, Cleveland 5, 2nd game
L.A. Angels 3, Seattle 2, 10 innings

Today's Games

Texas (Feldman 15-4) at Cleveland (Carmona 3-9), 12:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Niemann 12-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Chamberlain 8-5), 7:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Pavano 11-11) at Toronto (Halladay 14-8), 7:07 p.m.
Baltimore (Berken 4-11) at Boston (P.Byrd 1-1), 7:10 p.m.
Detroit (Verlander 16-7) at Kansas City (Tejeda 1-1), 8:10 p.m.
Oakland (Cahill 8-12) at Chicago White Sox (Garcia 1-2), 8:11 p.m.
Seattle (Snell 4-1) at L.A. Angels (Jer.Weaver 14-5), 10:05 p.m.

Pirates boxscore

CHICAGO	ab	r	h	bi	PITTSBURGH	ab	r	h	bi
Theriot ss	5	1	2	1	AMcCt cf	5	0	1	0
Bradly rf	2	1	1	0	RVazqz 2b	4	0	2	1
MHffpr rf	3	1	1	1	GJones rf	4	1	1	2
D.Lee 1b	5	1	2	0	Milledg lf	4	0	0	0
ArRmr 3b	5	1	1	2	Pearce 1b	2	1	1	0
JeBakr 2b	4	1	3	0	AnLRc 3b	4	0	1	1
Soto c	3	2	1	2	Cedeno ss	2	0	1	0
Fukdm cf	4	1	1	2	VVasqz p	0	0	0	0
Scales lf	5	0	1	0	NWalkr ph	1	1	1	0
Fuld lf	0	0	0	0	Dumtrt p	0	0	0	0
Dmpstr p	3	0	1	1	DlwYn ph	0	0	0	0
Grzlny p	0	0	0	0	Veal p	0	0	0	0
AGzmn p	0	0	0	0	Jarmll c	4	1	1	0
Grabow p	0	0	0	0	Duke p	0	0	0	0
J.Fox ph	1	0	0	0	L.Cruz ss	3	0	0	0
Caridd p	0	0	0	0					
Totals	40	9	14	9	Totals	33	4	9	4

Chicago	700	100	100	—	9
Pittsburgh	011	000	200	—	4

E—An.LaRoche (14). DP—Chicago 1, Pittsburgh 1. LOB—Chicago 9, Pittsburgh 8. 2B—Soto (16), Fukudome (31), Pearce (12). HR—M.Hoffpauir (9), G.Jones (19). S—Dempster, Duke. SF—G.Jones.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chicago						
Dempster W,9-8	6 1-3	8	4	4	2	4
Gorzelanny	1-3	0	0	0	0	0
A.Guzman	2-3	0	0	0	2	0
Grabow	2-3	0	0	0	0	0
Caridad	1	1	0	0	0	1
Pittsburgh						
Duke L,10-14	4	12	8	8	1	2
V.Vasquez	3	2	1	1	2	1
Dumatrait	1	0	0	0	1	0
Veal	1	0	0	0	0	1

Umpires—Home, Tim McClelland; First, Rob Drake; Second, Andy Fletcher; Third, Greg Gibson.
T—2:51. A—17,862 (38,362).

NFL schedule

Thursday's Games

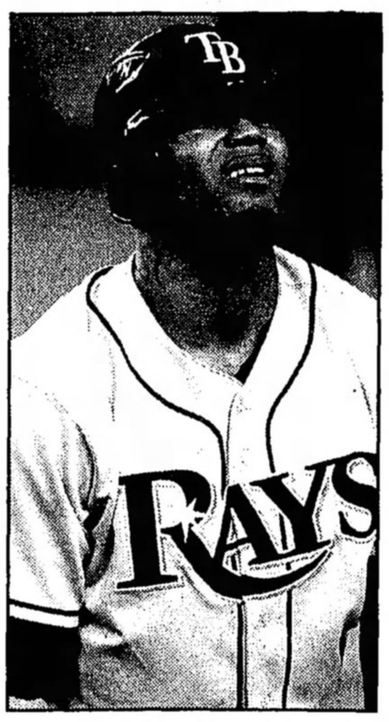
Tennessee at Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Miami at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Houston, 1 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Denver at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 4:15 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

Monday's Games

Buffalo at New England, 7 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 10:15 p.m.



Carl Crawford and Tampa Bay Rays will face the Yankees at 7:05 p.m. on ESPN.

Sports dial

Today

Television

7 p.m. - ESPN2 - U.S. Open, tennis.
7:05 p.m. - ESPN - Tampa Bay at New York Yankees, baseball.
10:05 p.m. - ESPN - Los Angeles Dodgers at Arizona, baseball.

Radio

12:35 p.m. - WPGB (104.7 FM) - Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, baseball.

High school football standings

Class AAA
Big Seven Conference

	League W	L	Overall W	L
Belle Vernon Area	0	0	1	0
Elizabeth Forward	0	0	1	0
Thomas Jefferson	0	0	1	0
West Mifflin	0	0	1	0
Chartiers Valley	0	0	1	0
Ringgold	0	0	0	1
Trinity	0	0	0	1

Friday

Ringgold at Albert Gallatin
Belle Vernon Area at Southmoreland
Uniontown at Thomas Jefferson
Laurel Highlands at Elizabeth Forward
Chartier Valley at Yough
Trinity at Greensburg Salem
Derry at West Miflin

Keystone Conference

	Con. W	L	Overall W	L
Albert Gallatin	0	0	1	0
Uniontown	0	0	1	0
Greensburg Salem	0	0	0	1
Yough	0	0	0	1
Derry	0	0	0	1
Laurel Highlands	0	0	0	1
Southmoreland	0	0	0	1

Friday

Chartiers Valley at Yough
Ringgold at Albert Gallatin
Belle Vernon Area at Southmoeland
Laurel Highlands at Elizabeth Forward
Derry at West Mifflin
Uniontown at Thomas Jefferson
Trinity at Greensburg Salem

Class AA
Interstate Conference

	Con. W	L	Overall W	L
Brownsville	1	0	1	0
Greensburg Central	1	0	1	0
Jeannette	1	0	1	0
Mt. Pleasant	1	0	1	0
Washington	1	0	1	0
Charleroi	0	1	0	1
East Allegheny	0	1	0	1
McGuffey	0	1	0	1
South Allegheny	0	1	0	1
Waynesburg	0	1	0	1

Friday

East Allegheny at Charleroi
Brownsville at Jeannette
Mt. Pleasant at Washington
Waynesbur at South Allegheny
Greensburg Central at McGuffey

Class A
Tri-County South

	Con. W	L	Overall W	L
California	0	0	1	0
Jefferson-Morgan	0	0	1	0
Monessen	0	0	0	1
Carmichaels	0	0	0	1
West Greene	0	0	0	1
Mapletown	0	0	0	1
Geibel	0	0	0	1

Friday

Monessen at Clairton
Geibel at Bentworth
California at Serra
Chartiers-Houston at Carmichaels
Avella at Jefferson-Morgan
West Greene at Fort Cherry
Burgettstown at Beth-Center
Frazier at Mapletown

Black Hills Conference

	Con. W	L	Overall W	L
Bentworth	0	0	1	0
Fort Cherry	0	0	1	0
Chartiers-Houston	0	0	1	0
Serra	0	0	1	0
Avella	0	0	1	0
Frazier	0	0	0	1
Clairton	0	0	0	1
Burgettstown	0	0	0	1

Friday

Monessen at Clairton
Frazier at Mapletown
Burgettstown at Beth-Center
California at Serra
Geibel at Bentworth
Chartiers-Houston at Carmichaels
Geibel at Bentworth

Bowling

Charleroi Lanes
New Eagle Bowling League
Standings

Charleroi Lanes, 12-2; Yocolano, 11-4; Hill Top Bar, 10-5; Cindy's Catering and Bill Hermann's Landscaping, 8-7; Hoot Owls, 7-7; Hey Andy, 3-12; A.T. Koury Roofing, 2-12.

High game, series

Dave Seward, 222-546; Jim Ross, 212-541; Bob Douglas, 204-541; Mark Sutherland, 202-491; Chuck Franio, 191-481; Kenny Louttit, 173-398; Bob Burket, 172-476; Bob Gondos, 169-471; Edie Trunzo, 169-454; Bo Garrett, 167-495.

Boys' soccer standings

Class AAA
Section 5

	League W	L	T	Overall W	L	T
Ringgold	0	0	0	3	0	0
Canon-McMillan	0	0	0	2	0	0
Upper St. Clair	0	0	0	1	0	0
Moon	0	0	0	1	1	0
Peters Township	0	0	0	1	1	0
Trinity	0	0	0	1	3	0

Tuesday's Games

Hempfield 2, Trinity 1
Upper St. Clair 2, Cardinal Mooney 0

Thursday

Ringgold at Hempfield
Penn-Trafford at Trinity

Class AA
Section 3

	Sec. W	L	T	Overall W	L	T
South Park	1	0	0	1	0	0
Steel Valley	1	0	0	2	1	0
S'moreland	1	0	0	1	1	0
Belle Vernon Area	0	0	1	3	1	1
Thomas Jeffe	0	0	1	1	2	1
Elizabeth Forward	0	1	0	2	2	0
Yough	0	1	0	0	1	0
Uniontown	0	1	0	0	1	0

Tuesday's Games

BV Area 1,T. Jefferson 1
S'moreland 3, Elizabeth 2
Steel Valley 4, Yough 1
South Park10, Uniontown 0

Thursday

BV Area at Uniontown
Elizabeth at Steel Valley
South Park at Southmoreland
Yough at Thomas Jefferson

Class A
Section 1

	Sec. W	L	T	Overall W	L	T
California	3	0	0	3	0	0
Geibel	1	0	0	3	0	0
Serra	1	0	0	1	0	0
Grb. Central	1	0	0	1	1	0
South Allegheny	0	1	0	0	1	0
Trinity Christian	0	1	0	0	1	0
Win,Thurston	0	1	0	0	2	0
Brownsville	0	1	0	0	3	0

Tuesday's Games

California 1, Brownsville 0
Geibel 4, South Allegheny 2
Grb. Central 1, Trinity Christian 0
Serra 5, Winchester Thurston 4

Thursday

Geibel at California
Brownsville at W. Thurston
Grb. Central at South Allegheny
Serra at Trintiy Christian

Section 4

	Sec. W	L	T	Overall W	L	T
Monessen	1	0	0	2	1	0
Carlynton	1	0	0	2	1	0
C-Houston	1	0	0	1	2	1
Beth-Center	0	1	0	0	1	0
Brentwood	0	1	0	0	1	0
Bentworth	0	1	0	0	3	0
Charleroi	0	0	0	2	1	0

Tuesday's Games

Monessen 4, Brentwood 1
Carlynton 1, Bentworth 0
C-Houston 6, Beth-Center 1

Thursday

Bentworth at Monessen
Brentwood at Charleroi
C-Houston at Carlynton

Girls' soccer standings

Class AAA
Section 5

	League W	L	T	Overall W	L	T
Canon-McMillan	0	0	0	2	0	0
Ringgold	0	0	0	2	2	0
Elizabeth Forward	0	0	0	1	1	0
Mt. Lebanon	0	0	0	1	1	0
Trinity	0	0	0	1	1	0
West Mifflin	0	0	0	1	2	0
Upper St. Clair	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tuesday's Games

Thomas Jefferson 3, Ringgold 0

Today's Games

Ringgold at C-McMillan
Mt. Lebanon at Trinity
Upper St. Clair at West Mifflin
Elizabeth at Chartiers Valley

Section 6

	Sec. W	L	T	Overall W	L	T
Belle Vernon Area	0	0	0	1	1	0
Connellsville	0	0	0	1	1	0
Laurel Highlands	0	0	0	1	1	0
Uniontown	0	0	0	1	1	0
S'moreland	0	0	0	0	1	0
Albert Gallatin	0	0	0	0	2	0
Waynesburg	0	0	0	0	2	0
Yough	0	0	0	0	0	0

Today's Games

Laurel Highlands at BV Area
Yough at Albert Gallatin
Connellsville at Uniontown
S'moreland at Waynesburg

Class AA
Section 1

	Sec. W	L	T	Overall W	L	T
Charleroi	0	0	0	3	1	0
Beth-Center	0	0	0	1	1	0
McGuffey	0	0	0	1	1	0
South Fayette	0	0	0	1	1	0
South Park	0	0	0	1	1	0
C-Houston	0	0	0	0	2	0
Bentworth	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tuesday's Games

Charleroi 5, Geibel 2

Todays Games

Beth-Center at Charleroi
McGuffey at Bentworth
South Park at C-Houston

Section 6

	Sec. W	L	T	Overall W	L	T
Monessen	0	0	0	1	1	0
St. Joseph	0	0	0	1	1	0
Jeannette	0	0	0	0	0	1
Geibel	0	0	0	1	2	0
Grb. Central	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mt. Pleasant	0	0	0	0	1	0
East Allegheny	0	0	0	0	0	0

Today's Games

St. Joseph at Monessen
Jeannette at East Allegheny
Mt. Pleasant at Grb. Central

Wii bowling

Monessen Senior Center
Standings

John Petritis, 14-7; Lou Ann Petronick and Ron Croushore, 12-9; Nello Tineri, 11-10; Harry Niccolai, 7-14; Ron Vivio, 6-15.

High scores

Lou Ann Petronick, 247-754; Mary Ann Tineri, 253-643; Ron Croushore, 232-634; John Petritis, 236-625; Ron Vivio, 215-619; Frances Hrebnar, 211-618; Nancy Dzurco, 206-599; Kenny Zimmaro, 226-593; Joe Gallo, 198-555; Harry Niccolai, 207-543.

Area golf results

At Duck Hollow
Belle Vernon Area - 192

Bo Lustig and Brett Bishop, 37; Kyle Naden and Brad Antal, 39; Kirby Manown, 40. Non-count: Tyber Lustig, 43.

Uniontown - 210

Ben Sampson, 39; Brian David, 41; Zach Nelson and Mason Fordyce, 43; Josh Nelson, 44. Noncount: Ryan Fike, 48.

At Cedarbrook
Mt. Pleasant - 204

Ryan Bull, 38; Trevor McCalmont, 39; Cameron Swink, 40; Zac Heide, 41; Andrew Raffensperger, 46. Non-count: Dieter Wright, 48.

Ringgold - 230

Rico Rodriguez, 40; Connor Kane, 42; Colin McCormick, 44; Jared Hancock, 47; Nick Feld, 57.

At Foxwood Acres
Bentworth - 200

Ty Bell, 38; Clay Roiman and Kyle Kubovcik, 39; Garrett Damich, 41; DSam Iapcevic, 43.

Charleroi - 231

Eric Anderson, 42; Brandon Konek, 44; Kurt Melenyzer, 47; Martin Maytas and Derek Sergi, 49.

At Village Green
California - 192

David Beck, 36; Philip Liangley and Dominic Roach, 37; Tyler Van Olst, 39; Zac Edmiston, 43.

Washington - 243

Dan Crumrine, 37; Sam Interval, 40, Corey Iams, 54; Morgn McKee, 55; Shawn Mooney, 57.

At Linden Hall
Greensburg Central - 212

Calvin Hickey, 40; Erik Franken and Ryan Queale, 42; Cooper Cullen, 43; Jason Chang, 45. Non-count: Steve Janik, 46.

Frazier - 221

Tyler Rock, 40; Robert Gondura, 42; Nick Hawranko,44; D.J. Hudik, 46; Zach Smalich, 49. Non-count: Wyatt Tidhoilm, 49.

Latest Line

BEST BET: Tampa Bay is just 24-57 its last 81 games in New York. The Rays are also 1-6 their last 7 road games vs. a right-handed starter. New York is a solid 41-13 its last 54 home games and 37-18 the last 55 games vs. a right-handed starter. The Yankees have won 42 out of their last 59 games as the betting favorite. Take New York over Tampa Bay for another Best Bet winner.

NFL

Favorite	Odds	Underdog
Thursday, Sept 10		
	Week One	
PITTSBURGH	6 (35)	Tennessee
Sunday, Sept 13		
ATLANTA	4 (43)	Miami
BALTIMORE	13 (36)	Kansas City
Philadelphia	1 (44)	CAROLINA
CINCINNATI	4 1/2 (43)	Denver
Minnesota	4 (40)	CLEVELAND
HOUSTON	4 1/2 (43)	NY Jets
INDIANAPOLIS	7 1/2 (44)	Jacksonville
N. ORLEANS	13 1/2 (49)	Detroit
Dallas	6 (39)	TAMPA BAY
ARIZONA	6 1/2 (46)	San Fran
NY GIANTS	6 1/2 (37)	Washington
SEATTLE	8 1/2 (42)	St. Louis
GREEN BAY	3 1/2 (46)	Chicago
Monday, Sept 14		
N. ENGLAND	11 (47)	Buffalo
San Diego	9 1/2 (43)	OAKLAND

College Football

Favorite	Odds	Underdog
Thursday, Sept 10		
GA TECH	5 1/2	Clemson
Friday, Sept 11		
Colorado	4	TOLEDO
Saturday, Sept 12		
N, Carolina	5	CONNECTICUT
W. VIRGINIA	6	East Carolina
PENN STATE	28 1/2	Syracuse
VA TECH	20	Marshall
MICHIGAN ST	14 1/2	C. Michigan
N'WESTERN	18 1/2	E. Michigan
Iowa	6 1/2	IOWA ST
AUBURN	14 1/2	Mississippi St
ARMY	2	Duke
WISCONSIN	8 1/2	Fresno St
WAKE FOREST	3	Stanford
GEORGIA	7	South Carolina
TENNESSEE	8 1/2	Ucla
Byu	17	TULANE
OREGON	12	Purdue
Texas	33 1/2	WYOMING
NAVY	7	Louisiana Tech
Notre Dame	3	MICHIGAN
WASHINGTON	21	Idaho
ALA-BIRM.	11 1/2	Smu
Pittsburgh	11	BUFFALO
Tcu	10 1/2	VIRGINIA
BOSTON COLL.	21	Kent St
TEXAS TECH	27	Rice
MINNESOTA	4	Air Force
a-Hawaii	2	WASHINGTON ST
INDIANA	1 1/2	W. Michigan
MISSOURI	18	Bowling Green
Kansas	11	TEXAS EL PASO
SO. MISS	15	Central Florida
OKLA ST	15 1/2	Houston
BOISE ST	36	Miami-Ohio
LSU	14 1/2	Vanderbilt
Tulsa	18	NEW MEXICO
Southern Cal	6 1/2	OHIO ST
Utah	13 1/2	San Jose St
Oregon St	7	UNLV
NEBRASKA	23 1/2	Arkansas St
ALABAMA	34	Fla International
South Florida	24 1/2	W. KENTUCKY
FLORIDA	36 1/2	Troy
Ohio	3	NORTH TEXAS
MID TENN ST	1	Memphis
Kansas St	7 1/2	UL-LAFAYETTE

a-at Seattle, WA.

Baseball

Favorite	Odds	Underdog
National League		
Chicago Cubs	6-7	PITTSBURGH
St. Louis	9-10	MILWAUKEE
SAN FRAN	7 1/2-8 1/2	San Diego
Philadelphia	9-10	WASHINGTON
Florida	6-7	NY METS
HOUSTON	5 1/2-6 1/2	Atlanta
COLORADO	8-9	Cincinnati
ARIZONA	5 1/2-6 1/2	LA
American League		
Texas	5 1/2-6 1/2	CLEVE.
TORONTO	9-10	Minnesota
NY YANKEES	6 1/2-7 1/2	Tampa Bay
BOSTON	10-11	Baltimore
Detroit	9-10	KANSAS CITY
CHICAGO	5 1/2-6 1/2	Oakland
LA ANGELS	10-11	Seattle

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Sports moves

FOOTBALL
National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS—Released OL Elton Brown. Signed OL Jeremy Bridges to a one-year contract. Signed CB Rashad Barksdale, LB Chris Harrington, LB Lee Robinson and FB Fui Vakapuna to the practice squad.

ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed C Rob Bruggeman to the practice squad. Waived OL Michael Butterworth from practice squad. Waived S Jamaal Fudge.

BUFFALO BILLS—Re-signed OL Kirk Chambers. Released LT Langston Walker.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Signed G Kynan Forney and S Brian Russell. Waived OL Dennis Norman.

NEW ENGLAND PATROITS—Signed TE Robbie Agnone to the practice squad.

NEW YORK JETS—Signed LB Ryan Fowler. Waived FB Jason Davis.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Signed C Justin Hartwig to a four-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Signed LB Diyral Briggs to the practice squad. Waived DT Khalif Mitchell from the practice squad.

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball

MLB—Suspended Detroit RHP Fernando Rodney for three games and fined him an undisclosed amount for throwing a ball toward the stands following a Sept. 4 game against Tampa Bay.

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Recalled RHP Bob McCrory, RHP Chris Lambert and LHP Chris Waters from Norfolk (IL). Purchased the contracts of INF Justin Turner and C Guillermo Rodriguez from Norfolk. Placed OF Adam Jones on the 15-day DL, retroactive to Sept. 2. Transferred OF Lou Montanez and RHP Brad Bergesen to the 60-day DL.

BOSTON RED SOX—Activated SS Jed Lowrie from the 15-day DL. Recalled C Dusty Brown from Pawtucket (IL).

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Purchased the contract of INF Niuman Romero from Columbus (IL). Agreed on a four-year extension to their player development contract with Lake County (SAL) through the 2014 season.

DETROIT TIGERS—Promoted Tom Osowski to central regional crosschecker.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Recalled 3B Alex Gordon from Omaha (PCL). Purchased the contract of LHP Lenny DiNardo from Omaha. Placed RHP Doug Waechter on the 60-day DL.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS—Recalled C Ryan Budde, OF Terry Evans, RHP Rafael Rodriguez and 3B Freddy Sandoval from Salt Lake (PCL). Selected OF Chris Pettit from Salt Lake.

MINNESOTA TWINS—Activated 3B Joe Crede from the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Armando Gabino from Rochester (IL). Purchased the contract of 1B Justin Huber from Rochester.

TEXAS RANGERS—Activated OF Andruw Jones from the 15-day DL.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Purchased the contract of C-1B Kyle Phillips from Las Vegas (PCL). Recalled RHP Jeremy Accardo and LHP David Purcey from Las Vegas.

National League

CHICAGO CUBS—Recalled RHP Jeff Samardzija from Iowa (PCL).

CINCINNATI REDS—Recalled RHP Matt Maloney from Carolina (SL).

COLORADO ROCKIES—Designated RHP Adam Eaton for assignment. Recalled OF Matt Murton, RHP Matt Belisle and RHP Jhoulys Chacin from Colorado Springs (PCL). Purchased the contract of INF Mike McCoy from Colorado Springs. Placed INF Chris Nelson on the 60-day DL.

FLORIDA MARLINS—Activated RHP Brendan Donnelly from the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Chris Volstad and INF Gaby Sanchez from New Orleans (PCL).

MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Activated RF Corey Hart from the 15-day DL. Recalled 3B Mat Gamel from Nashville (PCL).

NEW YORK METS—Activated OF Carlos Beltran from the 15-day DL. Purchased the contract of RHP Tobi Stoner from Buffalo (IL).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Recalled RHP Eric Hacker, SS Brian Bixler and C Robinzon Diaz from Indianapolis (IL). Activated LHP Donnie Veal from the 15-day DL.

SAN DIEGO PADRES—Named Laura Broderick senior vice president, brand development. Recalled LHP Aaron Poreda and LHP Cesar Ramos from Portland (PCL).

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Purchased the contract of LHP Madison Bumgarner from Connecticut (SL). Recalled RHP Joe Martinez and INF Kevin Frandsen from Fresno (PCL). Optioned LHP Alex Hinshaw to Connecticut. Designated RHP Osiris Matos for assignment.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Recalled INF Ian Desmond, LHP Ross Detwiler and RHP Marco Estrada from Syracuse (IL). Purchased the contracts of RHP Logan Kensing and RHP Zack Segovia from Syracuse. Designated RHP Jorge Sosa for assignment. Transferred LHP Scott Olsen to the 60-day DL.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

NHL—Named Terry Gregson senior vice president and director of officiating.

ST. LOUIS BLUES—Agreed to terms with F Derek Armstrong.

COLLEGE

GEORGIA TECH—Named Darryl LaBarrie men's assistant basketball coach.

JOHN JAY—Named Dan Palumbo director of athletics.

MLS standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	10	4	9	39	34	25
Chicago	10	6	8	38	33	28
New England	9	6	6	33	26	26
D.C. United	7	5	11	32	35	34
Toronto FC	8	8	7	31	30	33
Kansas City	5	10	6	21	20	29
New York	4	16	4	16	20	41

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Houston	11	7	7	40	31	22
Los Angeles	9	4	11	38	28	23
Seattle FC	8	6	10	34	29	23
Colorado	9	7	6	33	35	27
Real SaltLake	9	9	6	33	35	27
Chivas USA	10	9	3	33	23	24
FC Dallas	6	11	5	23	31	35
San Jose	5	12	5	20	27	40

Today

Kansas City at D.C. United, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12

Colorado at Toronto FC, 3:30 p.m.
Seattle FC at D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.
Kansas City at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
FC Dallas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 13

New England at Chivas USA, 3 p.m.
Houston at Columbus, 5 p.m.

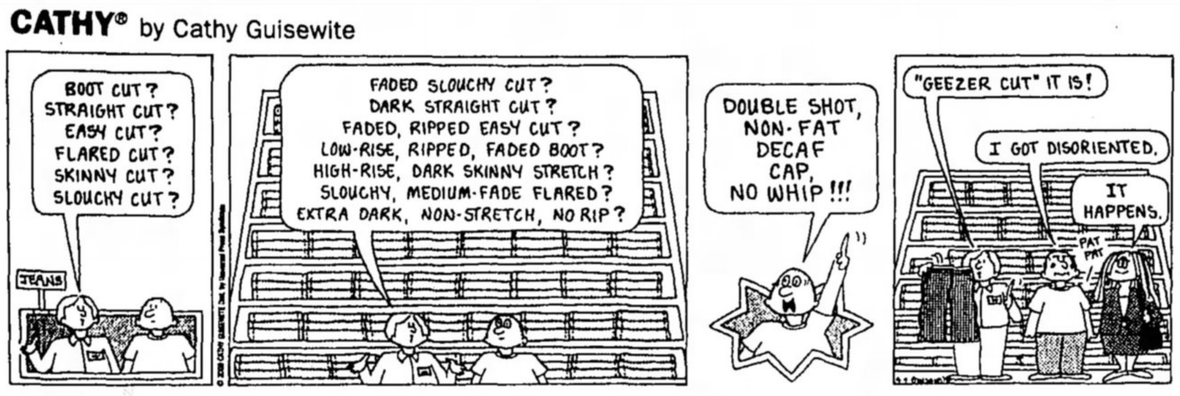
Football Top 25

	W-L	Pts	Pvs
1. Florida(56)	1-0	1,493	1
2. Texas(2)	1-0	1,424	2
3. SouthernCal	1-0	1,355	4
4. Alabama(2)	1-0	1,331	5
5. OklahomaSt.	1-0	1,201	9
6. Mississippi	1-0	1,095	8
7. PennSt.	1-0	1,082	9
8. OhioSt.	1-0	985	6
9. BYU	1-0	984	20
10. California	1-0	971	12
11. LSU	1-0	890	11
12. Boise St.	1-0	882	14
13. Oklahoma	0-1	782	3
14. Virginia Tech	0-1	652	7
15. Georgia Tech	1-0	630	15
16. TCU	0-0	523	17
17. Utah	1-0	404	19
18. Notre Dame	1-0	383	23
19. NorthCarolina	1-0	338	21
20. Miami	1-0	315	—
21. Georgia	0-1	294	13
22. Nebraska	1-0	266	24
23. Cincinnati	1-0	248	—
24. Kansas	1-0	196	25
25. Missouri	1-0	126	—

Others receiving votes: Oregon St. 113, Michigan St. 83, Pittsburgh 82, Texas Tech 53, Oregon 47, Clemson 40, Florida St. 39, West Virginia 32, Tennessee 30

COMICS

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite



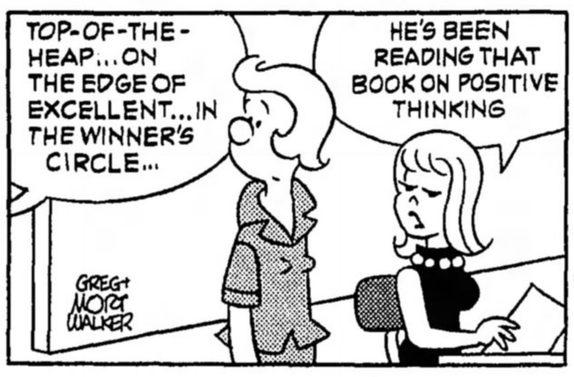
GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

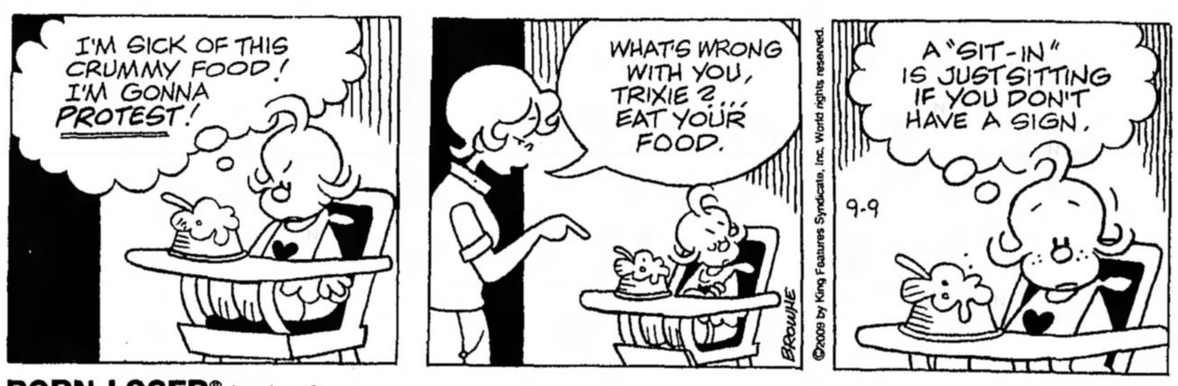
Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

YES, MA'AM..MY NAME IS "RERUN"...I DON'T KNOW..THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL CALL ME..
YES, I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE LAST WEEK.. WELL, I'M HERE NOW..
I HOPE WE DON'T HAVE TO READ "WAR AND PEACE" THE FIRST DAY..

BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker


TOP-OF-THE-HEAP...ON THE EDGE OF EXCELLENT...IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE...
HE'S BEEN READING THAT BOOK ON POSITIVE THINKING
GREG+ MORT WALKER

HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne

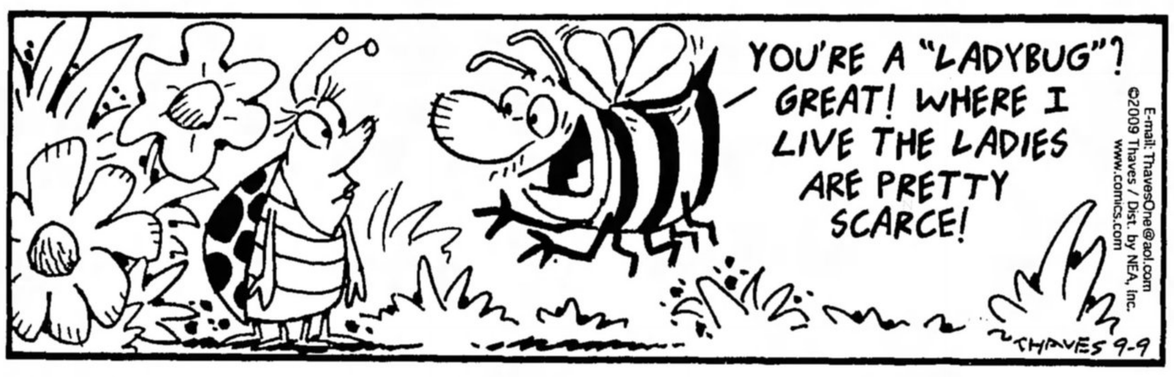

I'M SICK OF THIS CRUMMY FOOD! I'M GONNA PROTEST!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, TRIXIE?... EAT YOUR FOOD.
A "SIT-IN" IS JUST SITTING IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SIGN.
9-9

GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

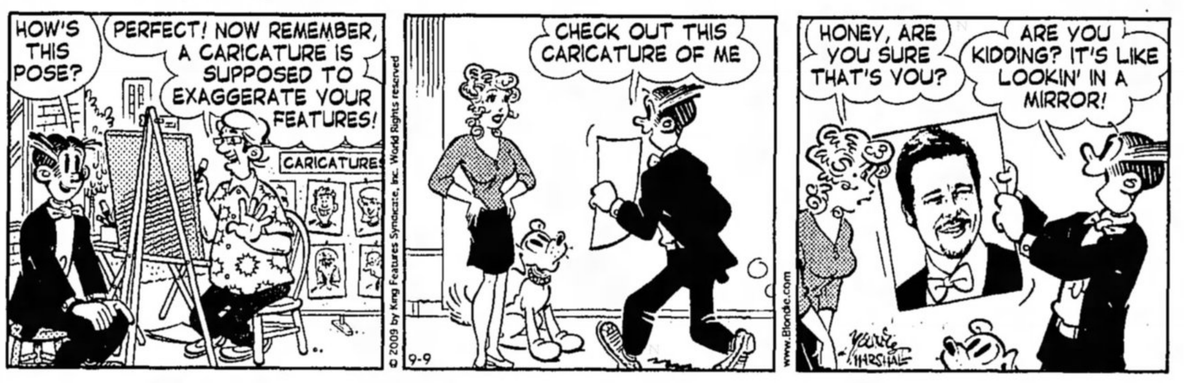
I'VE ALWAYS HAD A PROBLEM REMEMBERING NAMES
TELL ME ONE MORE TIME, AND I SWEAR I'LL NEVER ASK YOU AGAIN... I PROMISE
YOUR NAME IS PIERPOINT!
PIERPOINT!! ...RIGHT!

BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom

FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves


YOU'RE A "LADYBUG"? GREAT! WHERE I LIVE THE LADIES ARE PRETTY SCARCE!
E-mail: ThavesOne@aol.com
©2009 Thaves / Dist. by NEA, Inc.
www.comics.com
THAVES 9-9

BLONDIE® by Young and Marshall


HOW'S THIS POSE?
PERFECT! NOW REMEMBER, A CARICATURE IS SUPPOSED TO EXAGGERATE YOUR FEATURES!
CARICATURES
CHECK OUT THIS CARICATURE OF ME
HONEY, ARE YOU SURE THAT'S YOU?
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT'S LIKE LOOKIN' IN A MIRROR!
9-9
www.Blondie.com

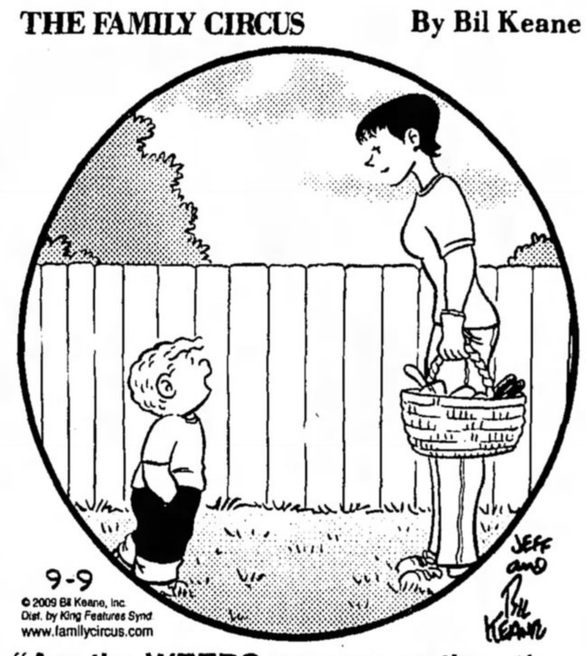
SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski

THERE'S NO MILK... WHAT'RE YOU EATING WITH YOUR CEREAL?
Cream Soda...
I THINK I'M GONNA BARF...
There's cream IN MILK, RIGHT? SO DUHHH....
9-9
STROMOSKI

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

kitncarlyle@comcast.net
I LIKE TO THINK I'M NOT AFRAID OF HEIGHTS, BUT I'LL STAY UP HERE TILL YOU BUILD ME AN ELEVATOR...
9-9
www.comics.com
© 2009 by NEA, Inc

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Are the WEEDS greener on the other side of the fence, too?"

BIG NATE® by Lincolin Peirce

WOW! MR. COREY! WHO DREW ALL THESE COMICS ON YOUR NOTEBOOK?
I DID.
YOU DID?? YOU'RE A CARTOONIST?
YEP.
REALLY? ARE YOU FAMOUS?
OH, YEAH. VERY FAMOUS.
GUYS!
THAT'S WHY I'M WORKING AS A SUBSTITUTE 6TH GRADE MATH TEACHER.
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MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

WHOEVER CATCHES THE MOST FISH, THE OTHER ONE HAS TO CLEAN IT—OKAY?
I'VE HOOKED ANOTHER ONE!
GREAT, JUST KEEP TENSION ON YOUR LINE... YOU'RE BECOMING A REAL FISHERMAN, RUSTY!
THAT'S A DEAL!
JACK ELROD
9-9

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

					3	5	6	
				7				
	4	5	9		8	3	7	
8	6			2			9	3
7								5
1								2
3								8
	9						5	
		6	4	8	9	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/09

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Answer to previous puzzle

8	2	5	6	1	3	7	9	4
1	3	4	7	9	5	6	2	8
6	9	7	2	8	4	5	1	3
2	4	6	3	7	8	1	5	9
7	5	3	9	4	1	2	8	6
9	1	8	5	6	2	3	4	7
3	8	9	1	5	6	4	7	2
5	7	2	4	3	9	8	6	1
4	6	1	8	2	7	9	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/08

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THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Steep-cliffed inlet
6 Dental photos (hyph.)
11 Loophole finder
13 Warden
14 Not free from risk
15 Public —
16 Touch of frost
17 *Last degree*
18 Units of wt.
21 Bit part
23 *Night hunter*
26 Wrath
27 Leafy climber
28 Gin-fizz flavor
29 Evolves, perhaps
31 Hubbubs
32 Brad of the movies
33 Some nightcaps
36 Psychic's intro (2 wds.)
37 Square root of IX
38 Prior to
39 Billy — Williams
40 Go biking
42 9-digit no.
43 Ms. MacGraw
44 NASA counterpart
46 Short snooze
49 Rue the day
53 Flatware pieces
54 *Miner's trough*
55 New drivers, mostly
56 *Where Pago Pago is*

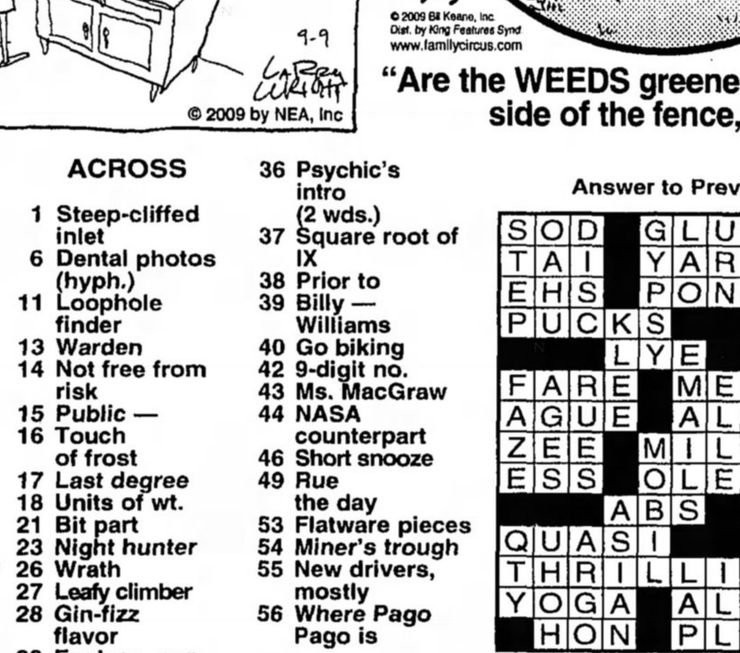
DOWN

1 Common ailment
2 Holm or Fleming
3 Startled cries
4 *Tatum's father*
5 Shortfall
6 Hobby knife (hyph.)
7 Full of calories
8 *Pub pint*
9 Of course!
10 Grads-to-be
12 Lay down fresh tar
13 Tarzan's mate
18 Clear
19 Minor injury
20 Parlor piece
22 Sufi or St. Francis
23 1950s records
24 Suitors
25 Wane
28 Crestfallen
30 Wolfed
34 OPEC vessels
35 Many locomotives
40 Big families
41 Kennel sounds
43 Unknown auth.
45 Water, in Baja
46 Okla. zone
47 Goodall subject
48 "Little piggie"
50 Wheel part
51 Kind of system
52 Drink with scones

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	O	D		G	L	U	E		M	P	G	
T	A	I		Y	A	R	N		E	R	I	C
E	H	S		P	O	N	D	E	R	O	S	A
P	U	C	K	S				N	I	F	T	Y
			L	Y	E		A	N	T			
F	A	R	E		M	E	N	U		W	A	G
A	G	U	E		A	L	A	I		O	V	A
Z	E	E		M	I	L	L		P	R	I	M
E	S	S		O	L	E	O		E	D	D	Y
			A	B	S		G	S	A			
Q	U	A	S	I				O	R	S	O	N
T	H	R	I	L	L	I	N	G		W	R	Y
Y	O	G	A		A	L	E	G		A	C	E
	H	O	N		P	L	A	Y		P	A	T

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



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TV LISTINGS

Hurt caused by old flame still burns 26 years later

Dear **ABBY**

DEAR ABBY: When I started my freshman year of college, I was a loner. I had low self-esteem, the result of a disability I was born with.

On the first day of school I noticed "Will," who was also a freshman.

I thought he was cute. He was easy to talk to, and we hit it off instantly. We became inseparable, often visiting each other's families on weekends and breaks.

At the end of the first semester — out of the blue — he called me a "b-tch" and told me to get out of his life.

I was crushed!

He left school shortly afterward without saying goodbye.

Later I was given some shocking news. His roommate told me that Will was gay. I went through the gamut of emotions from disbelief to anger to sadness.

And I felt used.

Twenty-six years have passed. I answered the phone at work two days ago and was surprised to hear Will's voice on the other end. He was shocked, too. I asked if he remembered me and he said he did. He came into the store several days later, and we exchanged phone numbers and e-mail addresses. I looked at his Web pages and saw pictures of him holding and kissing men the way he used to hold and kiss me.

They say you never forget your first, and I haven't. The problem is, I still feel hurt.

I want him to know that, but I don't know what to do.

Am I making too much of this? — **"GRACE" IN NEW YORK**

DEAR "GRACE": No, I don't think so.

Your relationship with Will ended without closure, so your hurt is understandable.

Give Will a call and invite him to join you for lunch. Tell him you were deeply hurt all those years ago, and then ask him to explain why he treated you the way he did and what happened after he left the school.

Don't be surprised if he tells you he loved you, too, and that he tried to be straight but simply could not be who you wanted him to be. Sometimes that happens.

DEAR ABBY: My mother passed away a year and a half ago. My parents were married 50 years. Dad is now 76 and recently started "seeing someone." While my sisters and I weren't thrilled about it, we never said anything negative about her to him.

A few weeks ago he found it necessary to include this woman in our weekly visit to our mother's grave. We told him if he wants to go there with her — fine. But do not drag her there with us. This was our private time with our mother. We didn't want a stranger there.

The end result was they broke up. Now dad is blaming it all on us. The breakup is a secondary issue. What are your thoughts about his insisting she be a part of the cemetery visits? — **GRAVELY CONCERNED IN OHIO**

DEAR GRAVELY CONCERNED: Frankly, I am surprised that the woman would want to be included in the weekly visits to your mother's grave. However, before she accepted the invitation, she should have made sure that her presence wasn't an imposition by asking your father if it had been cleared with you. As to the "secondary issue" — I suspect there was more behind the breakup than you have been led to believe.

(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

WEDNESDAY EVENING — SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS 2 KDKA 7 WTRF 10 WTAJ	2 KDKA-TV News at Six 7 News 10 WTAJ News at 6	7 10 CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	2 CBS Evening News-Couric 7 Entertainment 10 Inside	2 The Insider (N) 7 Inside Edition 10 Two and a Half Men	The New Adventures of Old Christine Richard's marriage.	Gary Unmarried Gary's half brother moves in.	Criminal Minds "To Hell ..." Serial killer who targets prostitutes and the homeless.		CSI: NY "Grounds for Deception" Stella and Mac head to Greece and uncover a mystery.		2 KDKA-TV News at 11 7 News 10 WTAJ News at 11	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman Jay-Z; Martha Stewart; George Jones. (N)		(:37) The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Danny DeVito; Audrey Tautou. (N)		2 (:37) Extra (N) 7 10 (:37) Paid Program	2 (:07) Work From Home 7 (:07) Up to the Minute 10 (:07) Paid Program	2 (:37) Paid Program 10 (:37) Up to the Minute (N)
ABC 4 WTAE 23 WATM	4 Ch. 4 Action News at 6 23 Insider	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	4 Inside Edition 23 Jeopardy!	4 Entertainment Tonight 23 Wheel of Fortune	Wipeout Contestants in Australia tackle obstacles. (N)		(:02) Crash Course Five new teams test their driving skills in an extreme driving course. (N)		(:01) Primetime: Crime (N)		4 Ch. 4 Action News at 11 23 News	(:35) Nightline (N)	(12:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live Ryan Kwanten; Brendan Benson. (N)		4 (:06) Oprah Winfrey 23 (:06) Paid Program	23 (:37) Paid Program	4 (:06) Slim in 6 23 (:07) Jerry Springer	4 (:36) Channel 4 Action News at 11
NBC 6 WJAC 9 WTOV 11 WPXI	6 WJAC-TV News at 6 PM (N) 9 News (N) 11 Channel 11 News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	6 Entertainment Tonight (N) 9 11 Jeopardy!	6 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 9 11 Wheel of Fortune	America's Got Talent Highlights from performances. (N)		America's Got Talent Four more acts advance. (Live)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Crush" Teenager is brutally beaten.		6 WJAC-TV News 9 News 11 News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien Reba McEntire. (N)		(:37) Late Night With Jimmy Fallon Ed Westwick; Queen Latifah. (N)		(:36) Last Call With Carson Daly Sig Hansen; Diane Birch.	(:05) Poker After Dark Tom Dwan; Patrik Antonius; Howard Lederer; Eli Elezra; Ilari Sahamies; Phil Ivey. (N)	
FOX 8 WWCP 53 WPGH	8 The Simpsons 53 Two and a Half Men	8 That '70s Show 53 Frasier	8 Seinfeld 53 Two and a Half Men	8 Everybody Loves Raymond 53 Seinfeld	So You Think You Can Dance (Season Premiere) Auditions. (N)		Glee "Showmance" (Series Premiere) The club performs for the first time. (N)		8 News 53 Channel 11 News	8 (:35) Everybody Loves Raymond	8 (:05) Seinfeld 53 Seinfeld	8 (:35) Frasier 53 Scrubs	8 (12:05) Paid Program 53 Scrubs	8 (:35) Paid Program 53 Paid Program	8 Paid Prog. 53 Magical Slimming Jeans	8 (:35) Paid Program 53 Paid Program	8 (:05) Paid Program 53 George Lopez	8 Paid Prog. 53 House of Payne
13 WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	OnQ	Families Stand Together: Feeling Secure		Your Life, Your Money (N)		Wide Angle Crisis in access to basic education. (N)		Charlie Rose		OnQ	Smart Travels: Europe	Your Life, Your Money		P.O.V. "English Surgeon"	
19 WPCW	The People's Court (N)		Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	America's Next Top Model Fourteen shorter contestants move into their home in Los Angeles.				10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	King of the Hill	South Park	Mike Tomlin Show	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program
22 WPMY	Simpsons	Family Guy	Simpsons	Family Guy	World's Funniest Moments		Magic's Biggest Secrets		TMZ (N)	Frasier	Law Order: CI		Medicine	Paid Prog.	Bernie Mac	My Wife	Half & Half	Half & Half
40 WPCB	The 700 Club		Focus 4 "God at Work"		Day of Miracles Sept. 11.		Dawn Hall	Aspiring	With Arlene	Quick Study	Nwswtch	The Place for Miracles		Theater	Focus 4		Gospel	Tripp
59 WBGN	TBA	RENO 911!	TBA	Paid Prog.	The FBI Files "Vanished"		To Be Announced		Cheaters	RENO 911!	Punk'd	Cribs	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
A&E	CSI: Miami "Just One Kiss"		Criminal Minds "L.D.S.K."		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter (N)		Criss Angel Mindfreak		Criss Angel Mindfreak		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Criss Angel Mindfreak	
ABCFAM	My Wife	My Wife	'70s Show	'70s Show	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		10 Things	Ruby	Paid Prog.	P90X: Proof	Paid Prog.	Net Millions
AMC	(5:30) ★★ "Major League" (1989) Tom Berenger.				★ "End of Days" (1999) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gabriel Byrne.					(:45) ★★ "Reign of Fire" (2002) Christian Bale.				(:45) ★ "End of Days" (1999) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gabriel Byrne.				
ANPL	Weird, True & Freaky		Rogue Nature Bear attacks.		Untamed and Uncut		I Was Bitten		I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Was Bitten		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Untamed and Uncut		Rogue Nature Bear attacks.	
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen		BBC World News America		Ramsay's Kitchen		Gordon Ramsay's F Word		BBC World News America		Ramsay's Kitchen		Gordon Ramsay's F Word		Ramsay's Kitchen		Gordon Ramsay's F Word	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)				★★ "Beauty Shop" (2005) Queen Latifah.				The Game	The Game	The Wendy Williams Show		"I Can Do Bad"		Frankie	Frankie	The Wendy Williams Show	
BRAVO	Top Chef "Finale"		Top Chef: Las Vegas		Top Chef: Las Vegas		Top Chef: Las Vegas		Top Chef: Las Vegas (N)		(:15) Top Chef: Las Vegas			Top Chef: Las Vegas		(:45) Top Chef: Las Vegas		
CMT	Extreme Makeover: Home		Extreme Makeover: Home		Trading Spouses		★★ "Caddyshack" (1980, Comedy) Chevy Chase.				(:15) ★★ "Caddyshack" (1980) Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield.					Videos	Videos	Videos
CNBC	Mad Money		Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports		American Greed		American Greed		Mad Money		Fast Money		American Greed		Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	RENO 911!	Presents	Scrubs	Scrubs	Hart: Grown Little Man		South Park	South Park	Chris Rock: Bigger & Blacker			Lisa Lampanelli		Chappelle	South Park	Futurama	Chris Rock: Bigger	
CSPAN	(5:00) House of Representatives				Tonight From Washington						Capital News Today						Today in Washington	
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	MythBusters		MythBusters		Man vs. Wild "Alaska" (N)		Man vs. Wild "Texas"		MythBusters		Man vs. Wild "Alaska"		Man vs. Wild "Texas"		A Haunting	
DISNEY	Phineas-Ferb	Zack & Cody	Wizards	Montana	"Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior"			Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Montana	Wizards	That's-Raven	Life Derek	Cory	Replace	Kim Possible	Emperor	Dragon
E!	Kourtney	Kourtney	E! News (N)	The Daily 10	Husbands Who Kill		E! Investigates: Stalkers		Girls	Kourtney	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Soup	E! Investigates: Stalkers		Girls	Chelsea
ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)		MLB Baseball Tampa Bay Rays at New York Yankees. (Subject to Blackout)						MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Subject to Blackout)						SportsCenter (Live)		SportsCenter (Live)	
ESPNC	Basketball	Soccer: World Cup Qualifier -- Trinidad & Tobago vs. United States					NBA Basketball 1995 Denver Nuggets at Utah Jazz. (N)				NBA Basketball 1996 Boston Celtics at Utah Jazz. (N)						Boxing: Liston vs. Machen	
ESPN2	U.S. Open Scoreboard		Tennis U.S. Open -- Men's and Women's Quarterfinals. From the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y.								SportsCenter (Live)		NFL Live (N)	NASCAR	Baseball	Auto Racing		Football
EWTN	Catholic	Jugan	Daily Mass: Our Lady		EWTN Live		Super Saints	Holy Rosary	The Heroic Journey		Faith-Culture	Heritage	Daily Mass: Our Lady		EWTN Live		Letter-Spirit	Marriage
FNC	Special Report		FOX Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		Hannity (N)		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		Glenn Beck	
FOOD	Cooking	Minute	Challenge		Challenge Burger recipe.		Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Dinner: Impossible (N)		Good Eats	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Dinner: Impossible (N)		Good Eats	Unwrapped
FSN	Magazine	Football	Penn State	Penn State	WVU Foot	Pitt Football	Notre Dame	Spotlight	Steelers	Final Score	Reloaded	Final Score	Best Damn-Pageant		Final Score	Final Score	ClubWPT.com	
FX	(5:30) ★★ "Ghost Rider" (2007, Action) Nicolas Cage.				★★ "Pathfinder" (2007) Karl Urban. Premiere.				★★ "Pathfinder" (2007) Karl Urban, Moon Bloodgood.					'70s Show	'70s Show	'70s Show	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	The Golf Fix	Golf Videos	19th Hole (N)	Top 10	Top 10	Golf	BMW Champ. Highlights		19th Hole	Golf Central	Top 10	Golf	BMW Champ. Highlights		19th Hole	Golf Videos
GSN	Newlywed	Catch 21	Deal or No Deal		Family Feud	Family Feud	Lingo	Millionaire	Catch 21	Newlywed	Deal or No Deal		Be a Millionaire		Jeopardy!	Hollywood	Pyramid	Pyramid
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Touched by an Angel		Touched by an Angel		Touched by an Angel		Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Cheers	Cheers	Cheers	Cheers
HGTV	To Sell	Beyond Box	House	House	Property	Property	House	Income Prop.	House	Renovation	Big Amazing	First Place	Property	Property	House	Income Prop.	House	Renovation
HIST	Decoding the Past		Modern Marvels		Decoding the Past		Nostradamus Effect		MonsterQuest		MonsterQuest		Decoding the Past		Nostradamus Effect		MonsterQuest	
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy		Medium		Medium		★★ "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" (1998)				Project Runway		Models	Frasier	Will & Grace	Grey's Anatomy "Rise Up"		Paid Prog.
MSNBC	The Ed Show (N)		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show	
MTV	Parental	Parental	True Life		Pranked	Pranked	The Real World		The Real World "Cancun"		The Real World (N)		The Real World "Cancun"		The Real World		Best Dance Crew	
NICK	iCarly	iCarly	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Hates Chris	Hates Chris	The Nanny	The Nanny	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Hates Chris	Hates Chris
OXY	Dance Your A... Off		Dance Your A... Off		★★★ "Steel Magnolias" (1989) Sally Field, Dolly Parton.					★★★ "Steel Magnolias" (1989) Sally Field, Dolly Parton.					Naughty	Dance Your A... Off		Snapped
PCN	PCN Tours		PCN PM - pcntv.com		PCN Primetime - pcntv.com				PCN Evening - pcntv.com				PCN Late Night - pcntv.com				Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	Pittsburgh Now		News	Psychiatric	NightTalk		PCNC News		NightTalk		Pittsburgh	Fedko Fone	PCNC News	PCNC News		Paid Prog.	NightTalk	
SCIFI	Stargate SG-1		Ghost Hunters		Ghost Hunters		Ghost Hunters (N)		Destination Truth		Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Lost "Do No Harm"		The X-Files "Fresh Bones"	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(:06) Ultimate Knockouts 6		(:09) Ultimate Knockouts 7		(:13) Ultimate Knockouts 5			CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		I Bet	Disorderly Conduct: Video	
TBS	Raymond	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	Meet-Browns	Meet-Browns	The Tyler Perry Show (N)		Sex and City	Sex and City	★★★ "Clueless" (1995) Alicia Silverstone.			
TCM	While-Sleeps	★★ "Nowhere to Go" (1958)			★★★ "Here Comes Mr. Jordan" (1941)		(:45) ★★★ "Angel on My Shoulder" (1946) Paul Muni.				★★★ "Now, Voyager" (1942) Bette Davis. (DVS)				★★★ "Deception" (1946) Bette Davis.			
TLC	What Not to Wear		Restorer Guy	Stager	Lottery Changed My Life		Truth Be Told (N)		Toddlers & Tiaras (N)		Lottery Changed My Life		Truth Be Told		Toddlers & Tiaras		Restorer Guy	Stager
TNT	Bones		Bones		Bones		Leverage (N)		Dark Blue "Betsy" (N)		Leverage		Dark Blue "Betsy"		CSI: NY		Cold Case "Daniela"	
TOON	6TEEN	6TEEN	Stoked	Total Drama	BrainRush	Destroy	Othersiders	Survive This	King of Hill	King of Hill	Family Guy	Family Guy	Chicken	Hungerforce	The Oblongs	Home	King of Hill	King of Hill
TRAVEL	Extreme Terror Rides		Terror Rides: Mega Speed		Extreme Megastructures		Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Extreme Megastructures		Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food
TRUTV	Wildest Police Videos		Cops	Cops	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Black Gold (N)		Forensic	Forensic	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Black Gold	
TVLAND	Little House on the Prairie		Hillbillies	Hillbillies	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Get So Rich	Get Rich	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne
USA	NCIS "Ex-File"		NCIS "Probie"		NCIS "Model Behavior"		NCIS "Lt. Jane Doe"		NCIS "See No Evil"		★★★ "Breach" (2007, Suspense) Chris Cooper, Ryan Phillippe.					In Plain Sight		Law CI
VH1	Real Chance of Love		Tool Academy		My Antonio Hula love story.		The Beatles Anthology Spirituality influences the music.				Women, Sunset Strip		Tool Academy		Real Chance of Love		Real Chance of Love	
VS.	Cagefighting		Sports	Sports Soup	World Extreme Cagefighting				WEC WrekCage		World Extreme Cagefighting				Cycling	WEC WrekCage		Sports Soup
WE	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Ghost Whisperer		20/20 "Vanished 2"		20/20 "Love Gone Wrong"		20/20 "Death by Driving"		9/11: Millionaire Widows		United by 9/11		20/20 "Death by Driving"		20/20 "Love Gone Wrong"	
WGN	Becker	Becker	Funniest Home Videos		★★ "Police Academy" (1984) Steve Guttenberg.				WGN News at Nine (N)		Scrubs	Scrubs	The Bob & Tom Show		Star Trek: Next Gener.		The Steve Wilkos Show	
ENC	(:15) ★★ "America's Sweethearts" (2001)				★★★ "Sling Blade" (1996) Billy Bob Thornton.				(:15) ★★ "Judgment Night" (1993) Emilio Estevez.				(12:10) ★★★ "Kiss of Death" (1995) David Caruso.				★ "The Perfect Holiday"	
HBO	(5:30) "Be Kind Rewind"		(:15) ★★ "The Express" (2008) Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown.					Mayweather	Hard Knocks		Real Time With Bill Maher		★ "Max Payne" (2008) Mark Wahlberg.			"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber"		
MAX	★★★ "Space Cowboys" (2000) Clint Eastwood.				(:15) ★★ "The Beverly Hillbillies" (1993) Jim Varney.				★★★ "Changeling" (2008) Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich.					Co-Ed Conf.	★★ "RocknRolla" (2008) Gerard Butler.			
SHOW	(4:55) ★★ "The 6th Day"		★★★ "The Bank Job" (2008) Jason Statham.				Inside the NFL (N)		Kevin Nealon		Inside the NFL (iTV)		Dexter		(:25) ★ "Good Luck Chuck" (2007) iTV.		"Sex, Lies, and Videotape"	
STARZ	(:15) ★★★ "The Family Man" (2000) Nicolas Cage, Tea Leoni.					(:28) ★★ "Beverly Hills Chihuahua"			Lawrence	Lawrence	★★ "Prom Night" (2008) Brittany Snow.				★ "The Waterboy" (1998) Adam Sandler.		Crash 2	Youth Wi
TMC	(:15) ★ "Who's Your Caddy?" (2007) Jeffrey Jones		"The Deal" (2008, Comedy) William H. Macy, Meg Ryan.						★★★ "Rescue Dawn" (2006, War) Christian Bale.				(12:05) "The Go-Getter" (2007)			(:40) ★★★ "3:10 to Yuma" (2007)		

HOTFACTS by YAHOO! hotjobs

of new grads say benefits are their top priority in accepting a job.

Source: Yahoo! HotJobs college survey, May 2007

Boost your benefits by finding a job at PAJobMatch.com

FEATURES

Frugal Living

Store brands far from generic products of old

When asked what items they won't compromise for the sake of frugality, many readers state their brand loyalty to certain products.

They are willing to pay more, yet many have not even tried the lower-cost store-brand counterparts available to them.

Granted, some have tried store brands and consider their favorite name brands to be superior, but at what cost? When pressed for more information, the primary shopper admits that the pressure of other family members tends to enforce the decision to buy name-brand products.

So how much more are folks willing to pay? $1? $2? $5?

Is there still a stigma attached to store brands? Let's face it: Many vary only slightly to similar name-brand products, and many are manufactured by the same companies. Read the ingredients of both choices. Some are identical, and others are only slightly different.

They simply cost less because of marketing. Read: It costs more to convince you it's better. Stores are aware that they need to have quality products to compete. Many offer money-back guarantees, too.

If you're trying to save money, this is an area to take into consideration. Store brands aren't the same as they were years ago.

Sara **NOEL**

Have you looked lately? The black-and-white labels of yesterday are long gone. Often, they are premium quality and are better than the major manufacturer's brand. Ask yourself why you aren't buying more store brands.

SNEAKING IT IN: Many readers confess that they've been using store-brand products for years and have been refilling name-brand product containers such as shampoo bottles, liquid soap, laundry detergent, juice, salad dressings, sugar and cereal, to name a few, with less expensive alternatives. If there isn't a noticeable difference, continue to try more low-cost options.

MAKE A LIST: Make a list of items that you typically purchase as name brands.

Consider items such as water, milk, cereals, frozen food, ice cream, canned food and cleaning products. Test them at home.

Don't overwhelm your family by introducing the private labels all in one week.

Try them one or two at a time. You can make it fun by creating a game similar to the Pepsi challenge.

You could very well be happy with what you discover.

Once you have a list of items you're willing to switch, add up your potential savings per year.

SHOP SALES: Maybe you're not entirely convinced about purchasing store brands.

You can try shopping for the best value or by sales. I will sometimes purchase a name brand if its price is comparable or less than the store brands I enjoy.

This includes using manufacturer's coupons if I have them available.

STICK WITH WHAT YOU LIKE: By all means, stick with the products you actually like.

It's senseless to try to save money if you truly don't like a product. You're only wasting money if you are unhappy.

Even I have some name-brand products that I prefer and refuse to buy any another brands.

I won't mention product names, but toilet paper comes to mind. Just keep in mind that not everything is "you get what you pay for."

Often, it's more about "why pay more?"

To send tips, comments or questions, write to Sara Noel, c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or e-mail sara@frugalvillage.com.

HOLIDAY CUPCAKE CREATION Challenge!

Calling all bakers and cupcake decorators!

Register today to compete in the HOLIDAY CUPCAKE CREATION CHALLENGE at the GoodTaste! Pittsburgh Food & Cooking Expo on Saturday, November 7, 2009.

The Holiday Cupcake Creation Challenge is a cupcake decorating competition, benefiting Operation Santa Claus*. Contestants will have the chance to create their most unique holiday cupcake(s) and compete for a **$1,000 grand prize** courtesy of Relish Magazine!

To enter, visit **contests.TribLIVE.com**, upload a photo of a cupcake that you've decorated and submit your $10.00 registration fee!

Portion of the proceeds benefits Operation Santa Claus.

To enter by mail, see details on the form below.

Don't wait, deadline to register is 5 pm September 25, 2009!

Not a baker? You can still get involved!
Starting September 25, (5:30p.m.) visit **contests.TribLIVE.com** and vote for your favorites! Give 5 lucky contestants the chance to compete in person at the GoodTaste! Pittsburgh Food and Cooking Expo.

SPONSORED BY GoodTaste! Pittsburgh relish TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

**Operation Santa Claus is a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with the Salvation Army to deliver complete holiday meals to needy families throughout the region.*

Official Rules

1. To enter, visit contests.TribLIVE.com or return your completed entry form, cake photo and $10.00 required registration fee to: Holiday Cupcake Creation Challenge, c/o Trib Total Media, 503 Martindale St., Suite 250, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. 2. Color or black/white 4x6 photos will be accepted. Photos can not be returned, but will be available for pick up following the selection of contestants at the Trib Total Media offices located at the address listed above. 3. All entries must be received by 5:00 PM Friday, September 25, 2009. 4. Only one photo per contestant will accepted. 5. Trib Total Media readers will cast their votes for their favorite cakes by ballots online at contests.TribLIVE.com. 6. Contest will consist of an entry period (August 24 - September 25) and voting period (September 25 - October 16). 7. 1st place prize will include $1,000 cash courtesy of Relish Magazine and other prizes as yet to be determined. 2nd and 3rd place prizes will also be awarded. 8. Contest is open to all bakers – amateur and professional – residing within the Trib Total Media home delivery area. Employees of Trib Total Media and sponsor companies are not eligible to participate. 9. Void where prohibited by law. All federal, state and local laws and regulation apply. 10. Additional rules and regulations may apply. 11. Donations are voluntary. Entry and voting may be done at minimal cost by visiting contests.TribLIVE.com or contacting Trib Total Media Marketing Department at 412.320.7941.

Deadline to enter is Friday, September 25 at 5:00 PM. Enter online at **contests.TribLIVE.com** or complete this form, and return it along with your cake photo and $10.00 required entry fee (make checks payable to Operation Santa Claus) to:
Holiday Cupcake Creation Challenge, c/o Trib Total Media,
503 Martindale Street, D.L. Clark Building, Suite 250, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. DO NOT ABBREVIATE.

Name:_____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____

email: _____@_____._____

1398902

CALENDAR WATCH

Thursday

■ Angel Food Ministry registration, First Presbyterian Church, Monongahela, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Civil War Roundtable, California University of Pennsylvania, 7 to 9 p.m.

■ Monongahela Mother's Club meeting, Church of the Nazarene, 1 p.m.

■ Registration for Elizabeth Forward community swim lessons, high school pool, 6 to 7 p.m.

■ Aide to state Rep. Peter J. Daley provides assistance with state forms and applications, Center on the Hill, Washington Township, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

■ Lodge 615 Free and Accepted Masons, Charleroi, meeting, Masonic hall, 7:30 p.m.

■ Back to School Job Fair, California University of Pennsylvania Performance Center, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ West Pike Run Township Municipal Authority meeting, township building, 7 p.m.

■ Overeaters Anonymous meeting, Mon Valley Community Health Center, Monessen, 7:30 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Council 956 Knights to install officers

Father William D. Fries Council 956 Knights of Columbus in Charleroi will install officers following a 7:30 p.m. Thursday business meeting at its 702 Fallowfield Ave. facility. District Deputy Thomas Savage and his staff will conduct the ceremony. Officers, elected and appointed, for the 2009-2010 year, should attend in coat and tie. The ceremony, open to family and friends, will be followed by a wine and cheese social. Officers unable to attend should call Grand Knight Zack Seery at (724) 350-0071.

Angel Food Ministries registration planned

Angel Food Ministries registration will take place 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday at Marion Presbyterian Church, 207 Perry Ave., Washington Township. Packages will be delivered Sept. 19. Payment must be cash, money order or food stamps. There is no income requirement. For information, call (724) 929-7380.

Italian American Heritage Society board to meet

The Italian American Heritage Society of Monessen executive board will meet 7 p.m. Thursday on the conference level at the Mon Valley Community Health Center.

Post 801 planning Patriot Day salutes

American Legion Post 801, Roscoe, will conduct rifle salutes in observance of Patriot Day as follows Friday:

8:45 a.m. - Allenport Honor Roll for those who died in the North Tower, World Trade Center, American Airlines Flight 11, and civilians, fire and police lost in the tower collapse and rescue efforts.

9:03 a.m. - Stockdale Honor Roll for those who died at the South Tower, World Trade Center, those aboard United Airlines Flight 175 and lives lost subsequent to that event.

9:43 a.m. – Elco Borough Building for those who died at the Pentagon and those aboard American Airlines Flight 77.

10:10 a.m. – Roscoe Veterans Park for those killed when United Airlines Flight 93 crashed near Shanksville.

Healing service set

The Rev. Millie Thomas will lead a healing service 7 p.m. Friday at Union Baptist Church, 670 McMahon Ave., Monessen. A handicap accessible ramp is available.

Long Branch Community Grange plans meeting

Long Branch Community Grange 2072 will meet 7 p.m. Saturday and discuss funnel cakes to be made at the covered bridge festival at Mingo Park.

Super Cruise set at City Park

The Tri County Thunder Car Club will present Super Cruise in the Park 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday – rain date Sept. 19 – at Monessen City Park. Trophies will be presented along with participant judging and dash plaques to the first 50 cars. Food and refreshments will be available. Oldies music will be provided. For information, contact Bob Amoroso at (412) 670-3114.

Covered dish dinner set in Father Abbate Hall

The Altar Rosary/Christian Mothers of St. Anthony Church, Monongahela, will meet Monday following the Rosary recitation and Mass. The meeting in Father Abbate Hall will be a covered dish dinner. Members should bring their favorite side dishes or desserts. The group will attend Mass 8 a.m. Sunday. Members should sit in the reserved seats at the front of the church.

Oldies dance set

Parents without Partners, South Hills Chapter 278, will sponsor an oldies dance 8 to 11:30 p.m. Monday at the Royal Place Restaurant, 2660 Library Road, Route 88, Pittsburgh. DJ Steve will provide music from the 50s through the 70s. Food will be available. For information, call Barb at (412) 835-2688.

MARRIAGE LICENSE REQUESTS

The following have applied for marriage licenses through the Westmoreland County Register of Wills:

■ Charles Brandon Pope and Bethany Lyn Sadler, both of Elizabeth.

■ George Pellick, of Grindstone, and Any Renee Beaufort, of Jeannette.

■ William Edward Hart and Maryann Kathern Golofsky, both of Rostraver Township.

When you make the grade

When submitting news items for our Making the Grade feature, please include the first and last names of all listed. In addition, include a telephone number, just in case we have any questions about your submission.

IN THE SERVICE

Kolbeck completes basic training

Airman 1st Class Nikita G. Kolbeck completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

A 2005 Charleroi Area High School graduate, she is the daughter of Paula and stepdaughter of Andrew McPartland, of Charleroi.

Kolbeck

www.valleyindependent.com
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www.valleyindependent.com

GYROS by George

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2009
11AM TO ?
In Front of the Fire Department
328 Fallowfield Avenue
Charleroi, PA
Local Deliveries Available!
Stop By or Call To Place an Order
(724) 483-7311
Benefits: Charleroi Fire Department

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: J equals B

"E DSSK OX SOFXSIG OXA BMVJKS ASIEFS, OXA IBOKK GEKK E AES, GP EXWFSOIS GBS IGPWN PD BOFVKSII WBSSFDMKXSII." -W. AEWNSXI

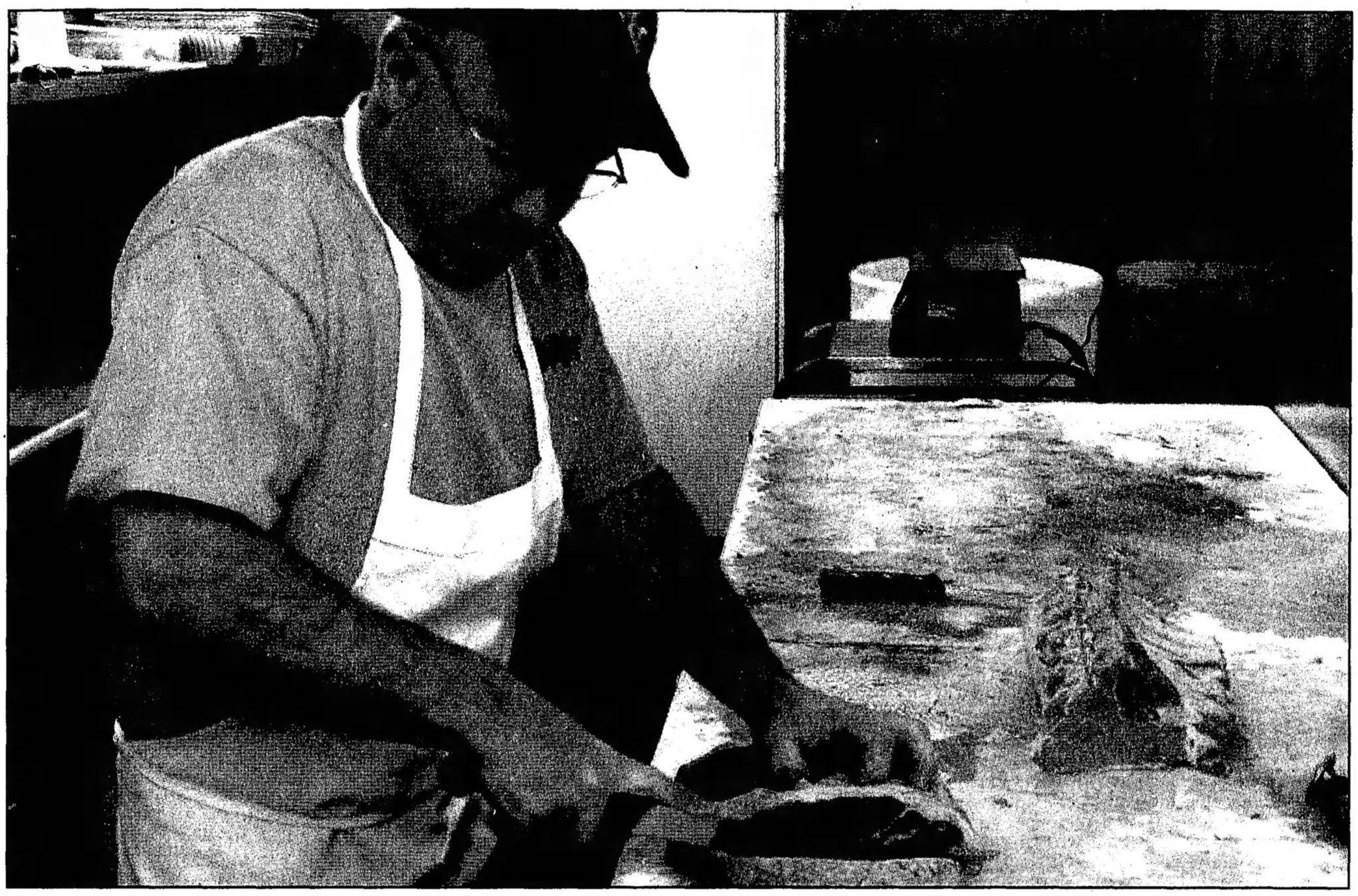
PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Poetry is the journal of a sea animal living on land, wanting to fly in the air." - Carl Sandburg

We're seeking Active Seniors

Do you know an older Valley resident who just does not understand the meaning of retirement? If so, your friend could be featured in Active Seniors, which appears each Friday in *The Valley Independent*. To nominate an Active Senior, please send an e-mail to jabramowitz@tribweb.com or call Joe Abramowitz at (724) 684-2634.

Valley Entertainment appears each Thursday

CHEPLIC PACKING INC.



Butcher Jason Cheplic goes to work at the family business, Cheplic Packing Inc. in Finleyville.

Jeff Pikulsky/ The Valley Independent

Butcher has built customer loyalty

Business still going strong 32 years after basement beginning.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
jpikulsky@tribweb.com

For a modestly sized specialty butcher shop on an isolated back road, Cheplic Packing Inc. has built a wealth of loyal customers accustomed to quality products and service with a smile.

The one-stop butcher shop first operated out of George and Sandy Cheplic's Finleyville basement in 1977. Three years later, the Cheplics opened a slaughter house at the company's current location, 111 Cheplic Lane, just off Mingo Church Road in Finleyville.

In 1983, the Cheplics added the retail end of the business, which continues to be in high demand today.

Cheplic Packing became a full-time operation in 1986. And customers like Pittsburgh resident Harry Sloap have kept the business buzzing, George Cheplic said.

Sloap was the first customer when Cheplic Packing began in the owners' basement and when it moved to its current site.

Sloap routinely makes the drive to Cheplic Packing for its distinguishable taste and hospitable employees.

George Cheplic said there are many other long-time customers that stop in for the same reasons.

"No one has personalized service like we do," he said. "I have customers that have been with me ever since I opened up. They're still here."

"We specialize in customer service. We give the people what they want, how they want it," said the Cheplics' son, Jason, who works with his parents. "On Saturdays, we know all the customers on a first-name basis. They sit there and they chat. They bring their coffees in. It's nice."

George and Sandy Cheplic's son-in-law, Gary Bachetti Jr., works in the meat processing department.

Jason Cheplic said he values the family atmosphere at the business and the rapport he, his mother and his father share with the clientele.

George Cheplic first worked in the business as a 13-year-old meat cutter at his father's market along Route 88.

"I worked right along side of him," George Cheplic said. "Really, I wanted to be an attorney, but then I got into the meat business. I got my hands dirty, and that was it."

Cheplic Market closed after more than 25 years in business when John Cheplic died in 1975.

When it closed, George Cheplic was working for Kroger.

He wrapped up 20 years with the company as a meat manager at the Belle Vernon office when the business shut down in 1983.

But, he had already been under way with his own business venture.

Starting up was an uncertain time for the family.

"When I first started, I was leery," George Cheplic said. "I used to work night and day. When we first started, there was many a day where we worked 15, 16 hours.

"But, everything just blossomed and fell into place. It's been fabulous."

George Cheplic said he is still consumed with the business, although he is considering retirement and taking on a consultant role at the shop.

Despite the demanding job, the 73-year-old meat marketer said he hasn't regretted a day at work.

"Hey, I just take time to go to church on Sunday," he said with a smile.

Cheplic said he and his family are a dying breed.

"We're true butchers. We're the old fashioned butchers. There's only a few of us left now," he said. "You can buy a cow and bring it in here and we'll cut it, freeze it and wrap it here. That's what they call custom slaughtering. We buy a lot of meat, too, because we can't butcher all that we sell."

Diversifying the business and broadening its capabilities has been the key to its survival.

"We've always got something to do, so if it's slow on one thing we can pick it up with another," George Cheplic said. "You never put your eggs in one basket. We've done different things."

When it comes to the more than 70 items sold at the shop, the Cheplics aren't afraid to mix it up.

"We've got about five or six different sausages. We even started making bacon burgers. We grind bacon into the ground meat," George Cheplic said. "We created hillbilly bacon. It's bacon created out of a pork butt. It's the same seasoning and it's leaner. We make a hot pepper cheese kielbasa. We started that, too.

"We even make our own hot dogs now for probably the last five years."

The business specializes in smoked meats.

"That's our main thing since we came here. Last Christmas, we sold over 1,200 hams," George Cheplic said. "You can't go anywhere and get smoking like we have."

The Cheplics have also made homemade beef jerky for the last 15 years.

"We're making almost 200 pounds a week now," George Cheplic said. "We make all our own hot dogs. We make our own ham and smoked pork chops."

The business is a hot spot when it comes to supplying family functions and holidays.

"We sell a ton of chicken. We do a lot of roasted chicken," he said. "We do a lot of roasting hogs, for picnics and weddings, and things like that."

The owners had to actually turn away business because there was so much demand.

"We quit doing deer now because we are so busy with the other stuff," George Cheplic said of processing for local hunters.

Business has been good enough for expansion.

Three months ago, George Cheplic added a 20-foot by 60-foot freezer to the more than $1 million in equipment and storage space on the business grounds.

The Cheplics strive to offer a welcoming atmosphere at their business.

George Cheplic can often be seen at the cash register.

His wife frequently answers the phone and packages orders.

Jason Cheplic said he doesn't mind working behind the scenes while his father serves as the company socialite.

The younger Cheplic handles the slaughtering and helps in the retail shop.

He is fully committed to carrying on the family name through the business.

The next generation, Jason Cheplic's son, Zachary, is already familiar with the shop.

"He's three years old and he can't wait to come down here, every day," George Cheplic said.

Sandy Cheplic said all the time the family has invested in the company has been worthwhile.

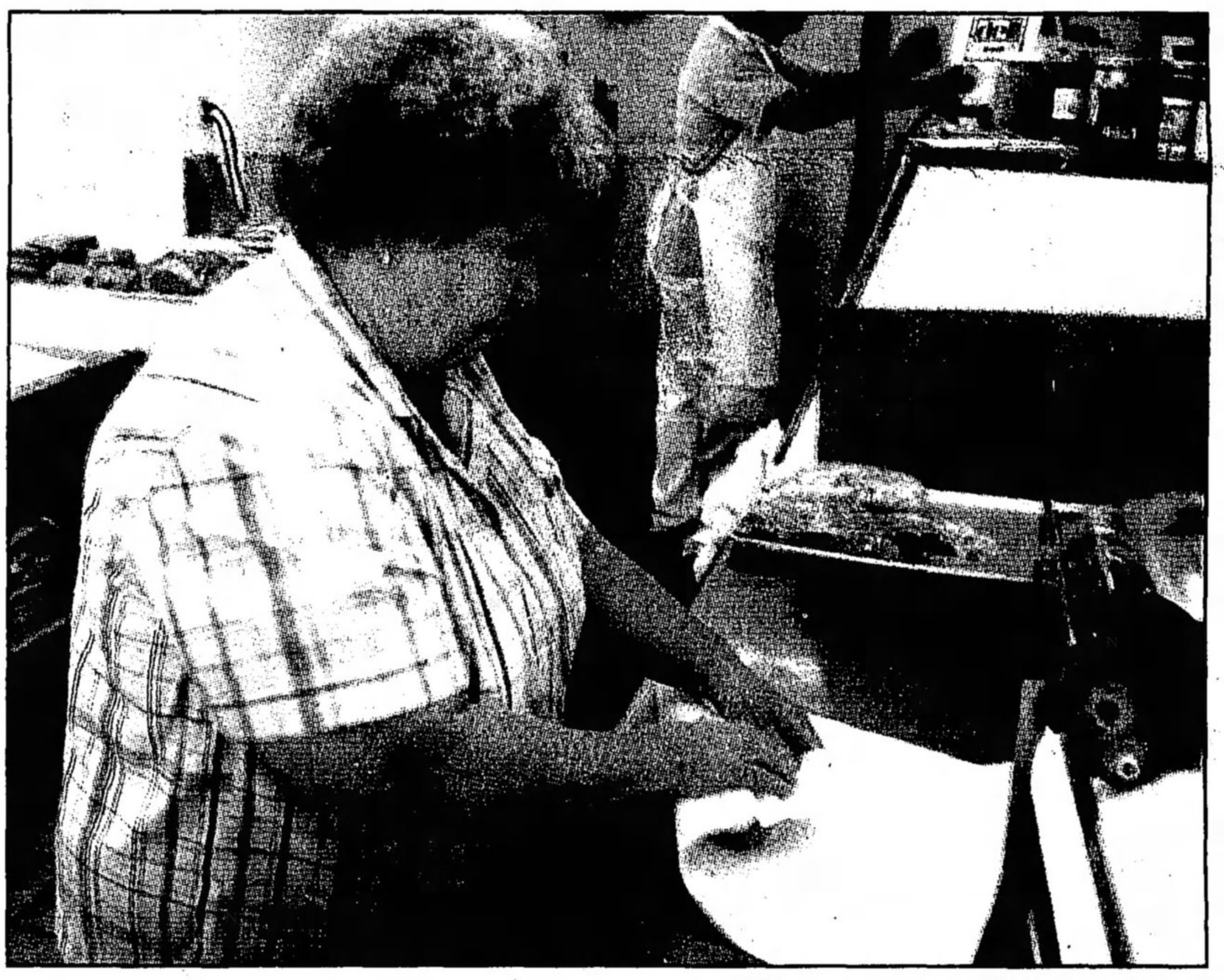
"We started out from nothing. I thought we were never going to make it, but we worked hard at it," she said. "It's been really good to us. It's tremendous."

Cheplic Packing Inc. is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

For more information, call (724) 348-7094.

Valley Survivors

This weekly feature honors a "Valley Survivor" — one of the many Mid-Mon Valley businesses, organizations and institutions that began when the local economy was booming, survived the financial havoc created by the decline of the domestic steel industry and remain viable today.



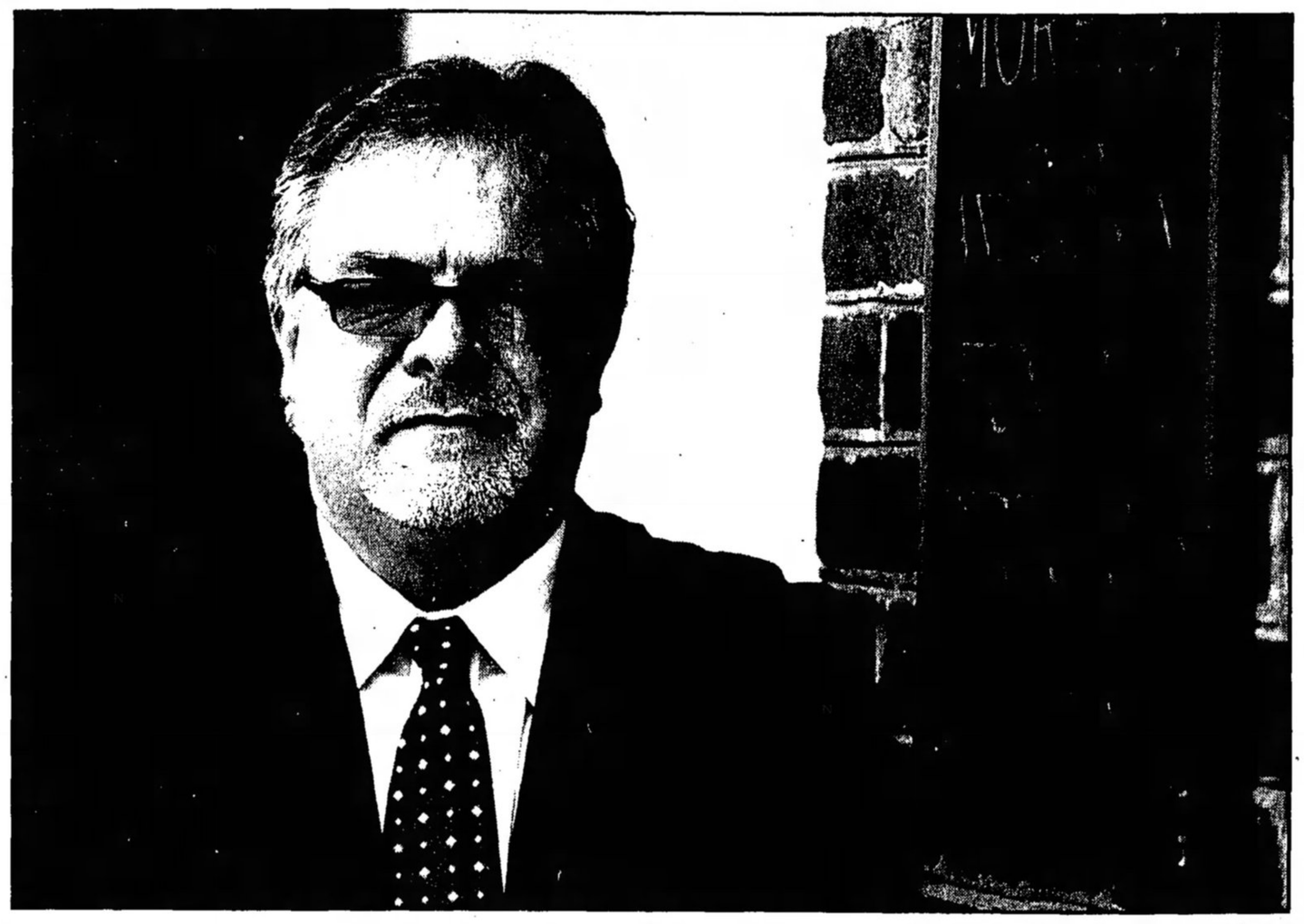
Jeff Pikulsky/The Valley Independent

Sandy Cheplic wraps up an order at Cheplic Packing Inc.

Jeff Pikulsky/The Valley Independent

Owner George Cheplic displays some of the prime meat in the company cooler.

Weak economy sparks rebirth of funeral sciences



Associated Press

Alan Willoughby, poses outside the shop of his new employer, the J.T. Morriss & Son, Inc. Funeral Directors in Petersburg, Va. After years in the manufacturing sector, Willoughby decided to change careers.

Guaranteed steady income attracts many to the mortuary business.

By JEANNIE NUSS
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — Facing impending layoffs at his manufacturing plant, Alan Willoughby left to seek financial security selling automobiles at a used-car lot. Then the economy hit the skids, and he struggled to make ends meet.

Finally, he turned to the one field he knew would provide him a steady income: funeral sciences.

At the age of 50, Willoughby is returning to college, joining a surge in student interest at the nation's schools that provide an education in the business and science of death, a field that historically garners greater interest as the job market worsens.

"It just got to the point where your big players, your Honeywells, your DuPonts, everybody was laying off. So I said, 'I can't do this anymore. It's just too much of a roller-coaster ride...'" said Willoughby, of Dinwiddie, Va. "Funeral services, for lack of a better phrase, it's kind of a recession-proof industry."

It's not an easy or particularly lucrative way to make a living: daily tasks of morticians and their assistants include removing bodily fluids, filling in crow's feet on cadavers and fluffing hair on balding corpses.

They must have the skills to counsel grieving families and prepare the bodies of children.

And for that, funeral directors pulled in an average of $58,810, according to the latest estimates in May 2008 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Still, for Willoughby, whose interest in mortuary sciences stems partly from years on a volunteer rescue squad, the promise of a stable job is worth it. He started classes this summer at John Tyler Community College, where his 20-year-old daughter will study accounting this fall.

"I've had some friends asking, 'Do you dream about it?'" Willoughby said. "It's not Hollywood. They're not going to jump up. They're not zombies. They're not going to chew your flesh off. That's someone's loved one."

Tough economic times – from the Great Depression to financial dips – have precipitated an increase in students interested in funeral sciences. Stephanie Kann, program director at the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Illinois, said interest in mortuary science historically has spiked when the unemployment rate hits 8 percent. It saw a 20 percent increase this year over last.

"Well, you don't have to pay your taxes, but I don't know anybody who has gotten away from the death part," said Kevin Davis, the funeral sciences director at St. Petersburg College in Florida.

Still, there are some who criticize those who would look to mortuary science just to be sure to make a buck.

"This career is something that you can't go into hoping for a lot of money," said 22-year-old Mandy Domeier, a funeral science student in Minneapolis. "It is stressful, you're on call all the time ... You have to actually love this job."

It's a job that's not always easy to love.

A young mortician's firsts in funeral science – first embalming, first car-crash victim – can be terrifying.

"I can still remember just being completely nervous my first time that I was going to cut too deep and sever the artery or the vein," said John Jacobson, a 22-year-old working at a funeral home in DeKalb, Ill., a small city west of Chicago. "It was not exactly a pleasant experience."

Jacobson didn't go into funeral science just for the job security: His father is a funeral director and he was familiar with the business. But now the economy is quelling his second thoughts and making him thankful for 70-hour work weeks.

"I've got some friends who are engineers who are contemplating working construction just because the job market's so bad," Jacobson said. "That's the one thing. No matter what the job outlook is, the funeral industry never slows down."

Entry-level positions can require new morticians to be available 24 hours a day to coordinate with clergy, meet families, organize memorial books and sort out death certificates.

Add in stereotypes of pale, creepy undertakers dressed in bad suits – it's not a job for everyone.

"Working with the dead is nothing you can put a glamour on and make it stick," said Eugene Ogrodnik, president of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science.

Some say the influx of those who don't come from generations of morticians is changing the face of funeral science.

Those who are new are willing to cater to more personalized – and sometimes bizarre – requests, including storing ashes in cookie jars and Jack Daniel's whiskey bottles.

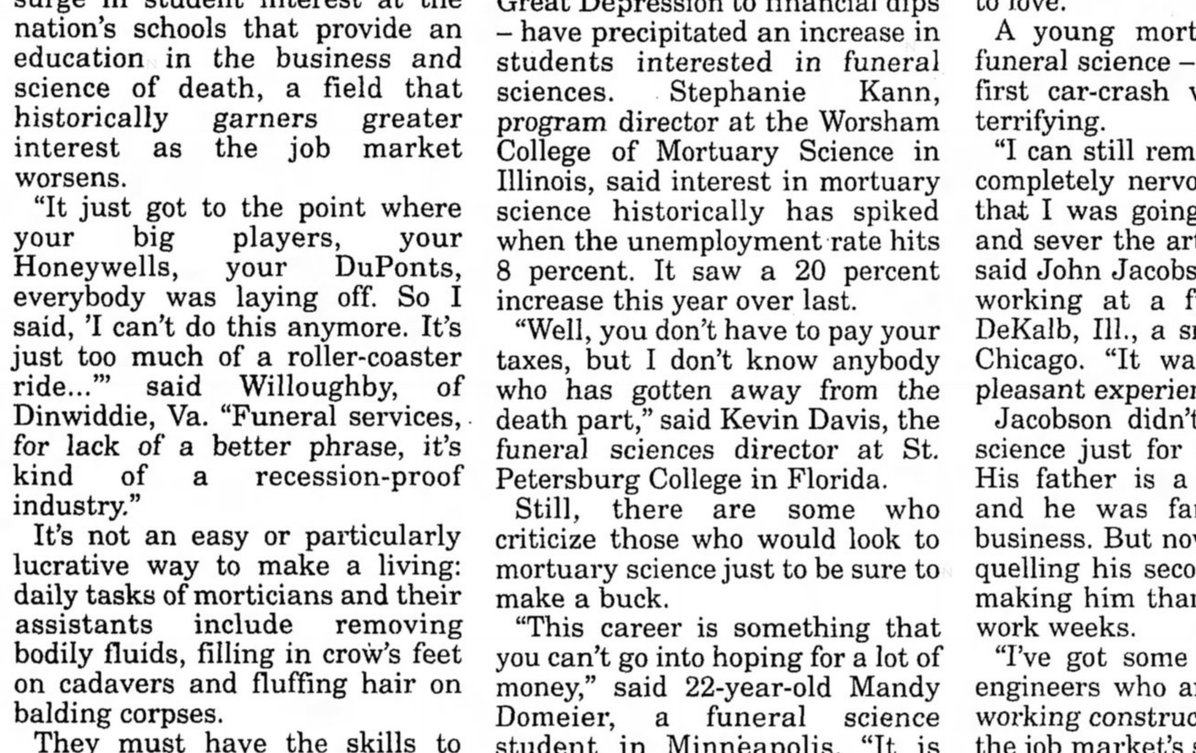
"You can have your ashes shot into space. You can have your ashes turned into a diamond ring," said Jacobson, the funeral worker in Illinois.

> "No matter what the job outlook is, the funeral industry never slows down."
>
> John Jacobson

Even the eco-friendly movement is reflected in modern-day funerals, as green burials – when a body is buried without any chemicals and placed in the ground with almost no marker – are gaining traction.

Those new to the industry say it can be difficult for the older generation of funeral directors to adapt to the times that call for technological advances like video memorial services, online guestbooks and live webcasting.

"We're changing the field," said Sadie Swan, a 29-year-old funeral science student at the University of Minnesota. "It's not gonna be a bunch of old, middle-class white men doing it anymore."



From left are 5-Town Salon and Tanning Boutique staff members Lisa Ondulick, Barbara Jameson, salon owners Janet "Sue" Jones and Ken Jones, Bonnie Borodaty and Kelly Crockett.

New salon, boutique open

5-Town Hair Salon and Tanning Boutique is one of the newest businesses to open in Roscoe.

"We are overwhelmed with how fast our customer base of more than 400 clients continues to expand and how our staff has more than doubled in such a short time," said Janet "Sue" Jones, who owns and manages the salon with her husband, Ken.

Jones said 5 Town Hair Salon and Tanning Boutique is a full-service salon that provides hair services for the whole family. The salon also offers tanning, facial waxing, acrylic nails, manicures and pedicures.

In addition to Jones, a competition award-winning stylist, staff members are Barbara Jameson, stylist/assistant; Lisa Ondulick, stylist/licensed cosmetology teacher; Bonnie Borodaty, office manager; and Kelly Crockett, licensed nail technician and massage therapist.

"All of our staff believes our clients come first," Jones said. "We want them to know how much we appreciate their business."

Jones said the shop offers a frequent customer card. After every hair appointment, the client's customer card is punched. After 10 visits, the client will receive a $15 credit toward the next appointment.

"The weekly roller set/style clients really benefit from this program and they get very excited when it is their 'free week,'" Jones said.

Jones said the shop also provides local transportation for elderly residents, if needed.

Jones called Roscoe "truly one of the nicest places to work," as she often receives telephone calls from local clients offering fresh vegetables from their gardens or homemade goodies.

Jones said they have also made friends with a few of the neighborhood dogs.

"We have a treat can for the dogs as they walk by with their owners," she said.

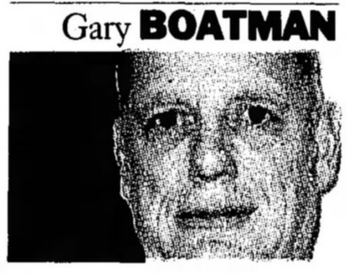
Jones said opening the salon has been a "blessing" and she encourages others to give the 5-Town communities a try.

"You won't be disappointed," Jones said. "You will be welcomed and greeted as warmly as we have."

Your Financial Future

Don't believe spin that the recession is ending

Gary **BOATMAN**



In a Labor Day speech, President Obama said, "The country still faces a vast and complex economic crisis." And although he vowed to work on this, there are no easy answers.

The Federal Reserve has said it is discussing ways to pull back if the economy improves. According to Pimco's Bill Gross, "The inability of the government to continue pumping stimulus into the economy could promote a double-dip recession."

Current estimates from Washington show our national debt is projected to grow to more than $10 trillion over the next 10 years. Something has to give, and taxes and interest rates must go up. Higher interest rates will cause bond prices to go down.

The recently concluded Cash for Clunkers programs helped Ford increase sales in August by 21.2 percent. However because analysts had predicted a 40 to 50 percent increase, the company's shares tumbled by 4.7 percent.

The partially government-owned companies of General Motors and Chrysler did not fare as well. The clunker program did not help them increase their share of the market. What will happen to sales without this generous program from the government?

Some optimists say a slowdown in the unemployment rate indicates better times are ahead. The overall rate hit 9.7 percent, which is a 26-year high. More than 200,000 additional people lost their jobs.

A closer look at government figures shows a more dire situation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics requires that an unemployed worker must have actively looked for a job at some point in the preceding four weeks to be included in the unemployment report.

Not included in the total are two additional groups. In August, there were 758,000 discouraged workers. These are people who have looked for a job in the last year, but have not looked in the last four weeks because they do not believe there are any jobs available.

The bureau's other category is called, "marginally attached to the labor force." For reasons such as attending school, health issues and family issues, these people have stopped looking. Many of them would be working in a better economy. There were roughly 2.3 million of these people in August. Including all these people would increase the unemployment rate to 11 percent in August. Remember that about two-thirds of our economy is consumer spending.

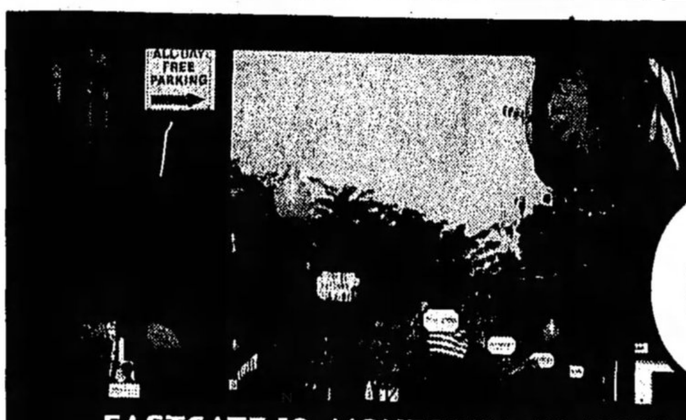
As I have always said, we will come out of this recession but it will take time. We are not at the end. Some people will tell you that China will lead us out of this mess. They have a lot of people, but not a big enough economy to turn everything around by themselves.

The U.S. gross domestic product is $15 trillion. China's is $3 trillion. U.S. consumption is $10 trillion per year, while China's is $1 trillion.

Don't let the spin get you to take unnecessary risk. If you need your money within 10 years, it probably should not be at market risk. Have a complete plan and stick to it. Do not get greedy. Have an emergency fund; take advantage of sales and government incentives.

The stock market is not on sale until sales start to increase; earnings come from things other than cost cutting and the effect of coming government regulations have been factored in. Even then, past prices and performance do not guarantee that former higher prices will be reached anytime soon. It is a new economy with a lot of unknowns.

Gary Boatman, a local businessman who serves as president of the Greater Monessen Chamber of Commerce, is a certified financial planner.



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Lohigh, Helen
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Administratrix
41 Kosor Road
West Newton, PA 15089

Jack L. Bergstein, Esquire
Bergstein & Galper, P.C.
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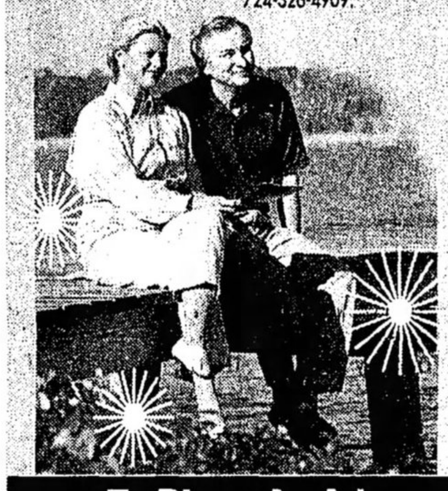

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DON'S FENCE chain link, wood, vinyl, hand rails & all your fencing needs. Free est. rea. rates. 724-929-3218.

FIREWOOD

SPLIT, SEASONED
1/2 cord, $65
full cord, $130
Call 724-640-5277.

FIREWOOD unsplit.
Perry/Belle Vernon area.
We will load.
Call 724-323-4835.

FLOOR INSTALLATION

ROBERT HANNAN
vinyl, hardwood, carpeting, ceramic. Ins. Guaranteed.
724-929-4330.

GLASS BLOCK

GLASS BLOCK Panels made to fit any opening, installation avail.
724-379-4255.

HAIR

SNOBALL'S
TANNING - HAIR - MAKE-UP
ALL NEW BEDS AND A NEW STAND-UP
(724) 489-1669.

HANDYPERSON

TOTAL Home Repair.
35 years experience.
Call Al 724-205-8406.

HAULING

HAULING cleanouts, cleaning, yard/shrub work, some moving. Dep., ins. Rich 724-872-0865, 1-800-566-4167.

CLEAN OUT whole house, basements, stores, attics, sheds.
Scrap metal hauled.
724-483-2140.

HERK'S HAULING
Stone, Cleanouts, etc.
No job too small!
724-929-9013.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

STASKO Restoration
all your home needs.
Int. & Ext. const. & renovations. 724-258-2473.

HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTINUED

CCS INC. All home improvements. Free est. Calls will be returned.
724-348-6276.

TED'S Painting & all repairs in & outside of home.
724-258-2796 or
724-469-0060.

RAINEY ENTERPRISE
Quality work at a reasonable price. Garage pkg"s., additions,new construction, renovations, siding, soffit & fascia, roofing, concrete, retaining walls.
724-929-8733.

HOME REPAIR

HANDYMAN MATTERS
Bonded & Insured. BBB.
Complete Bathroom Remodel
Starting at $5,995.
PA:000215
724-258-4884.

LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

LYNCH
Landscape Supply.
Topsoil, mulches, mushroom composte, deco stone, river stone, limestone, sand, Keystone, retaining walls & more.
Venetia 724-348-5518.
Belle Vernon 724-929-2177.

TOPSOIL 24/7
Screened & Non-Screened.
Call 724-938-0453

LAUNDROMATS

Bentleyville 721 Main St.
OPEN 24 HOURS
412-215-0661.

LAWN & LANDSCAPING

Call XTREME LANDSCAPING for all your lawn & landscaping needs.
LOW RATES. Free est.
724-350-7357
or 724-684-8108.

LAWN & LANDSCAPING CONTINUED

DAVIS
Landscaping & Trucking.
Retaining walls, all types concrete, trim, edge, remulching, all types drain work.
No job too big or too small.
724-258-8939.

LAWN MOWER REPAIR

BECK'S Repair all makes of push & riding mowers, rototillers, saws, snow blowers, gas & diesel farm tractors. Pick up & del.
724-258-4140.

LAWN SERVICE

LAWNS & shrubbery cut, trimmed, mulch, garden tilling. Free est. Ins.
724-258-3407.

AFFORDABLE Lawn Care.
Best Rates. Senior Disc.
724-396-0660.

MASONRY/CONCRETE

John Yurkovich Masonry. Retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, steps, driveways, chimneys, garages. Fully ins., free est. 724-628-7349.
Cell: 814-853-7069.
PA1637

MOVING and STORAGE

FRETZ TRANSFER 724-684-8499, 724-929-6869 & Fretz Mini Warehouse 724-684-6602, Monessen. Local moving & storage.

PAINTING

BOB's - Professional painting at rea. prices. New home const., ptg. & staining. Sr. Cit. Disc. Fully ins.
724-929-6595, 929-9313.

M.V. PAINTING - Int. & ext. Experienced & Insured. Free est. Will beat any reasonable price. 724-929-1620.

INT. EXT. painting. Exp'd., insured, free est., affordable. Michael Lundy.
724-292-9004.

EVANS PAINTING Voted Valley Favorite. Int. & ext. ptg.
724-344-4984,
724-489-4457.

Service Directory Ads Work.
For Only
$59.77 per month.
Call 724-684-5200.

PLASTERING

PLASTERING - New/repair work. Hardcoat/drywall fin. Barry Winters.
724-929-9765.

Donna Mae Russo, Santi "Sonny" Russo and Ron Matay

Business Listing Under APPLIANCE PARTS

Charleroi Sweeper

PLASTERING CONTINUED

FANALA PLASTERING
25 Yrs. Exp. Fully Ins.
Call 724-747-4373.

PLUMBING

GRECO PLUMB. Sewers opened, sewer, gas, water line installation, basement water proofing, water tanks. Prof. service.
724-684-4439, 379-8197.

QUICK RESPONSE Plumbing. Heat/AC. Registered Master. Certified gas line installer. Expert sewer cleaning. Ins. 866-732-4433 or 724-258-7724

LENDWAY & SONS General Plumbing.
724-348-4644,
724-379-4962.

WATER HEATER problems? Call Tom Patterson your Rheem Water Heater Specialist. 724-929-6797.

SEWAGE - Plumbing gas, water, electric lines, trenching, oil tanks.
724-562-3092.
CWS Inc.

ROOFING

LARRY'S CONT. reasonable, reliable, new roofs & repairs, gutters cleaned, prompt service. 724-483-3117.

ROOFING, siding, windows, doors, additions, garages, porch roofs, decks, gutters. Michael Smaracheck
724-469-6560.

LENDWAY & SONS ROOFING, siding, decks & additions. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

SEPTIC CLEANING

MG SEPTIC & Drain Cleaning. Fair Prices. For professional service you won't want to miss! Call Joseph Manack anytime.
724-929-8152.

Service Directory Ads Work.
For Only
$59.77 per month.
Call
724-684-5200.

TREE REMOVAL

3G'S TREES & stump removal. Bucket Truck Service. Free est., fully ins. 724-489-4180, 724-483-6205.

TREE PRO - tree removal specialist. Best deals! Free est. Henry. 724-929-6097 724-797-4944.

Service Directory Ads Work.
For Only
$59.77 per month.
Call 724-684-5200.

TREE SERVICE

TREECISION
Free estimates, Insured
Professional Service
724-288-3904 or
724-797-2505.

WINDOWS

CCS INC.
windows, roofing, siding.
724-348-6276.

DHCS Windows & Doors.
$185 window install.
724-797-1486.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PICTURES TO FEATURE YOU
on the job performing your service, as shown above right.
You can mail photos to
The Valley Independent
Eastgate 19
Monessen, Pa 15062
or email to rmoreschi@tribweb.com
(please include your name & business)

REAL ESTATE

3045/FOR SALE/FAYETTE

BELLE VERNON- for sale by owner. 2 bedroom, new kitchen, furnace, roof & hot water tank. Nice area. $39,900. 724-322-5129

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CARROLL TWP.
Victory Hill. 2 story, 3 bedroom, nice size, new roof, heat & air. Priced to sell $57,500.

MERICO S. LIGNELLI
Real Estate • Insurance
724-258-4141
724-258-3140

CARROLL TWP. 3 bedroom, 1 acre, garage, owner will give over $6,000 towards buyer costs, home warranty. Call Mary at Coldwell Banker TCR 724-454-9059. $102,000.

CHARLEROI 2 bedroom, 2 story frame. Has a beautiful new deck, roof, windows & has been well maintained. Spotless & move in ready for a very reasonable price. All appliances inc. Great for 1st time home buyers who qualify for $8,000 tax credit! Just listed for $58,000.

CHARLEROI 3 bedroom, 2 story vinyl in a friendly neighborhood. Features a new kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace in living room, huge front porch & off street concrete parking pad. Affordable starter or investment! $59,900.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-929-2180

ELLSWORTH $45,000. Fully furnished duplex inc. appliances, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, new roof, fenced yard, paved parking. 724-746-2853.

FALLOWFIELD TWP. Beautiful 3 bedroom brick ranch in desirable neighborhood! Central air, off street parking, covered back porch, nice covered porch! $119,900.

CHARLEROI Old World Victorian! This beautiful 4 bedroom home has a stunning entry staircase, stained glass window, built-in corner bench and much more! Priced to sell! $84,000.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

Great Donora Buys!
1. Move in! Spacious 2 story, eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, central air. Brick building included. $49,900.
2. Level building lot. All utilities avail. $6,500.
Call Wally 724-331-4391

Prudential
Preferred Realty
724-929-7228

NEW LISTINGS:
MONONGAHELA 4 bedroom, 2 story. Detached garage. Well maintained. Call for appt. today. $159,900.
BENTLEYVILLE Must see this beautiful 3 bedroom modular with open floor plan. Large deck. $99,921.
MONONGAHELA Large 4 bedroom, 2 story with large rooms. Needs TLC. Level back yard. $39,921.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-348-7470

3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

ROSTRAVER
3 bedroom, all brick, 2/3 acre double lot, pool, walk to all schools, stunning inside & out. $229,900. Call 724-929-3325 or see at www.paopenhouse.com

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

AFFORDABLE
Nice 3 or 4 bedroom Cape Cod. BVA Schools. Remodeled kitchen, 1st floor laundry, appliances, level lot. Home warranty. Reduced to $99,900.

VICTORIAN CHARMER
All in the family would enjoy this 9 room, 2 bath lovely home with pocket doors, fireplaces old & new together make this a rare find. $109,900.

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES
201 Associates
724-929-1370

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

3540/APTS-RENT/FAYETTE

FAYETTE CITY-spacious 1 bedroom, 2nd floor. Peaceful bldg. $300+ util., security & references. 724-518-6285.

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI- 1 bedroom, includes electric & water. $325 month. Call 724-483-0939.

CHARLEROI- 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms 1½ baths, parking, central air. Water & sewage incl. $475. 724-483-8045.

CHARLEROI-1 bedroom, $475 per month, all utilities included except electric. 412-583-6829.

CHARLEROI
1 & 2 bedroom apts. for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer. $350-$500. Security deposit. No pets.
724-396-1140
724-292-1189

CHARLEROI 2 ½ bedroom, stove, refrig. heat, water, sewage, garbage inc. $575. 724-518-1677.

★ CHARLEROI And DONORA ★
1 & 2 Bedroom Apts. Clean & Secure
Call 412-398-9306

DONORA- 3 bedroom, ground floor, accessible. Incl. heat, water & sewage. $500+ electric. Call 412-302-4856.

MONONGAHELA- clean 2 bedroom ½ duplex with appliances & garage. $475+ utilities. Call 724-942-4658.

MONONGAHELA 2nd floor, 2 bedroom, lg. living room, nice kitchen, peaceful neighborhood. $450+ utilities. No pet. 724-258-6481.

MONONGAHELA 1 bedroom, appliances. No pets, non-smoker. $375+ electric. Call 724-258-9674.

3560/APT-RENT/WMLD.

BELLE VERNON completely remodeled 2 bedroom 1 bath, living/kitchen area w/breakfast bar, laundry, deck, spacious closets, new appliances, security system. $650 includes sewage & water. No pets. References required. 724-379-6160.

3561/APT-RENT/OTHER

BELLE VERNON & MONONGAHELA
Modern 1 bedroom apartment. Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, balcony, storage, security. Starting at $375 + utilities. Call 412-257-0902.

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

DONORA- 2 bedroom duplex, basement, washer/dryer, new furnace. Section 8 ok. No pets. 724-258-9683.

DONORA very nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath house for rent or rent-to-own. Call 724-678-0979.

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

DONORA- little house, 4 big rooms, stove, w/w carpet, warm, clean. Ready now. No pets. Call 724-379-6492.

HOUSING
The Washington County Housing Authority is accepting applications for affordable housing in all locations. Applicants may choose to pay an income based rent (30% of family income) or a flat amount which will remain the same regardless of income. Flat rents are a result of a change in regulations for public housing only and are designed to help working families stay in affordable housing. Applicants are screened for criminal behavior and ability to uphold a lease. Applications are available at our public housing sites in Washington, Canonsburg, California, Monongahela, Donora, Fredericktown, Bentleyville and North Charleroi for both elderly and family households. Please call 724-228-6060 for information or locations and times, or obtain an application from the internet at http://housing-authority.co.washington.pa.us
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. Hearing impaired call TDD 724-228-6083.

MONONGAHELA-private 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, yard. $500+ utilities. Please call 724-258-2473.

MONONGAHELA 3 bedroom, ½ duplex, security deposit, no pets. Section 8 ok. 724-258-3355.

N. CHARLEROI 2 bedroom, 1 bath. $400 + utilities & security deposit. Call 724-208-8199.

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

MONESSEN- 1 bedroom ranch in a desirable neighborhood. Move-in condition. Great Dane Realty 724-684-9600.

MONESSEN 3 bedroom house for rent, newly remodeled. Call 724-309-5130.

ROSTRAVER TWP. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, living room, diningroom, kitchen, detached 2 car garage, deck, yard, $650+. 724-872-4156.

3626/HSE-RENT/OTHER

DONORA & MONESSEN Large 4 & 3 bedroom homes, nice yards. Section 8 approved. Call 412-916-5671.

3645/MOBILE RENTALS

BEAUTIFUL MOBILE HOME
Completely renovated
Everything new & upgraded
RENT TO OWN
Lot Rent, Home Payment, Sewage & Water, Taxes & Insurance
$490 Per Month
Riverview Mobile Estates
Dunlevy
724-483-2087
724-483-8470

3700/COMMERCIAL RE

FAYETTE CITY for rent formerly Skibo's Salon, 1,155 sq. ft. Call for details 412-583-6829.

MONONGAHELA
WAREHOUSE/ OFFICE SPACE
2,200 sq. ft. 10' overhead garage door. Near Rts. 43, 51 & 70. $650 mo.
---------AND---------
MONONGAHELA
NEW OFFICES/ FLEX SPACES
640-2,200 sq. ft. $425-$1,400. On site parking, close to Rts. 43, 51, 70.
Call 724-258-4000.
www.penosplaza.com

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA
BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

LOOKING for a GREAT ESCAPE?

Find it in OUTDOOR ADVENTURES CLASSIFIEDS
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

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EVERYTHING YOU WANT AND NEED AUTOMOTIVE REAL ESTATE HELP WANTED CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

2020/BID NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for the providing and maintaining copiers under a "Cost-Per-Copy Copier Program" for Washington County, Washington, PA 15301 will be received at the Office of the County Controller, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 403, Courthouse Square Office Building, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301, until 11:00 A.M. Prevailing Time, on Wednesday, September 30, 2009, and immediately thereafter will be publicly opened and read aloud in Public Meeting Room 104 of the Washington County Courthouse Square Building. (Late bids are not accepted.)

All bids must be submitted as ONE ORIGINAL + 2 COPIES according to the specifications and upon a uniform proposal blank. Please also submit bid submission in Microsoft Word file format on a compact disc. Specifications and proposal blanks may be picked up at the Washington County Purchasing Office, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 402, Washington, PA 15301 or by submitting a written request to this address. Bidders may fax their written request to the Washington County Purchasing Office at 724-250-6555.

You may obtain the above-mentioned bid proposal from the Washington County Web site at www.co.washington.pa.us Vendors receiving bids from the web site are responsible for checking for contract changes at the web site.

Proposal must be accompanied by cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank good faith check, other irrevocable letter of credit or bid bond in the amount of $5,000.00 and made payable to the order of the Washington County Commissioners. Only the Bid Securities listed will be accepted.

SEALED BID ENVELOPE MUST BE MARKED:
BID: Cost-Per-Copy
CONTRACT NO 093009-1Copy

The Washington County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bid proposals.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

LARRY MAGGI-CHAIRMAN
J. BRACKEN BURNS
DIANA L. IREY

ATTEST:

MARY HELICKE
CHIEF CLERK
9/2,9

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EVERYTHING YOU WANT AND NEED AUTOMOTIVE REAL ESTATE HELP WANTED CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

2030/MEETING NOTICES

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO ACT NO. 175 OF 1974, THAT THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL HOLD A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING GENERAL BUSINESS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 2009, 5:30 P.M., WITH A 5:00 P.M. EXECUTIVE WORK SESSION AT THE MAIN OFFICE OF THE AUTHORITY, 154 SOUTH GREENGATE ROAD, GREENSBURG, PA.

MICHAEL L. WASHOWICH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
9/9

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS

Need extra cash?
Turn clutter into CASH! Place your ad today.
classifieds.triblive.com
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

Service Directory

From Electricity to Grass mowing. We have the pros.
The Valley Independent
Service Directory
30 days pre-paid
$53.01

4010/CEMETERY LOTS

2 LEVEL LOTS at MV Memorial Park in Well of Semaria section, near main road, across from old school. $995 for both. 724-929-4578

4070/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING? LOSE SOMETHING? Place your lost & found ad FREE. Runs 4 days at no charge. Call 724-684-5200.

4100/PERSONALS

$195 DIVORCE COMPLETE
No-Fault Uncontested
Reisman & Davis, Pgh
-No Court Appearance or Travel To Office
-Free Information
1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

ALONE & PREGNANT?
A Confidential Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs.
724-489-9020

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

STEELERS JERSEY- Roethlisberger embroidered name & number, $40. 724-379-9547.

STEELERS JERSEY- Hines Ward, silk-screened, gently worn, $25. 724-379-9547.

WEDDING DRESS- size 8, brand new. Pd. $300 now $75. 724-379-4576 or 724-263-2829

WOMEN'S (M) new fleece lounging pants, $4 or $7 for both. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

WOMEN'S assorted dress/casual shoes size 9, $5 a pair. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

WOMEN'S baseball style fleece (M) jackets, $5 each or $13 all. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

WOMEN'S gray winter boots size 9, never worn, $5. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

WOMEN'S M 2 pc. mauve fleece set, like new $10. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

WOMEN'S M burgundy micro fiber winter coat with hood, $20. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

5010/APPLIANCES

GAS RANGE- Tappan, used, working condition with electronic ignition. $75. 724-929-5673.

MANGLE- Conlon, good condition. $60. Call 724-379-5017.

WASHER- Whirlpool. Works very good. $50. Call 724-489-9793.

WRINGER WASHER- Maytag, 1960 model. Excellent condition. $60. 724-379-5017.

5020/ARTICLES

2 STEREO SPEAKERS- Sanyo, 3 way w/bass reflex, high quality. $20. 724-929-4150.

5 BAR STOOLS with arms, maple. 29" high. $50 for all. Leave message 724-326-4686.

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA
All Private Party Ads are now PREPAID
What this means for you:
• NO BILLS
• NO STAMPS
• EASY & IMMEDIATE AD PLACEMENT
We accept Cash, Check and all Major Credit Cards. Call to place your ad TODAY!

AREA RUG- 6' round, green/neutrals, great condition. $40. Call 724-379-9547.

BOOK- Graphics Master Seven for graphic design students. $10. Call 724-684-5531.

CURLING IRON professional Conair, $10 or best offer. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

DALE EARNHARDT thermometer. $15. Call 724-326-4543.

HAIRSETTER instant Clairol $15 or best offer. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

INTERIOR DOOR- new, white, in jamb. $25. Call 724-379-7384.

LOUNGE CHAIR- large, maroon. $50. Call 724-379-8026.

MIRROR- 30"x 19", gold/cream, unique Victorian design. Only $10! 724-489-0107.

MUSICAL Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus $17; Christmas wreaths $5 ea.; Christmas figurines 25 cents-50 cents ea. 724-258-2395.

OVENWARE SET- 32 pc sculptured. Brand new. $30. 724-326-4543.

PORCH CHAIR metal bouncy, has surface rust, $5.00. Call 724-379-5104.

RADAR DETECTOR- Beltronics Vector 940, works good. $50. Call 724-379-9547.

SEWING MACHINE Fur Machine, $200.00 Call 724-326-5556.

SEWING MACHINE Blind Stitch, $200.00 Call 724-326-5556.

SNOWMAN LANTERN STAKES- set of 8, Terra Cotta. $15. Call 724-326-4543.

SONY PLAYSTATION- includes games. $50 for all. 724-379-9547.

STORM DOOR- $30; 2 door handles $4 each; 2 door closers $4 each. Call 724-684-8777.

TIFFANY Chandelier with 4 lights $25.00 Call 724-258-2395.

Service Directory

Has the pros.
The Valley Independent
Service Directory
30 days pre-paid
$53.01

GARAGE SALES

5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

BELLE VERNON
Sat., Sept. 12, 8am-1pm
6th ANNUAL BELLMAR ACRES COMMUNITY YARD SALES
Sponsored by
Alf & Jody Moebius Realtors
The neighbors located around the streets of the Marion / Bellmar Schools are selling their wares. Join in the fun & stop by the sponsor table at 404 Jacobs St., also Open House 11-1pm, to enter a drawing to win a $25 gas card! Dir: 51 N/S to 70 E/W, take Exit 43 (201S) towards Fayette City, turn left on Perry Ave., then right on Koslasky Dr. Follow signs. 724-263-7424.

Prudential
Preferred Realty
Independently Owned & Operated

5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

NEWELL- 4th St. Multi Family. Fri., Sept. 11, 7-2. Household, toys, books, clothes, much more. Rain or Shine.

ROSTRAVER- Nicholls Hill, random neighborhood sale, signs off Finley Rd. Sat., Sept. 12, 9-3. Furniture, baby girl's clothes, other baby items; women & men's apparel, home decorations. Hot dogs.

WASHINGTON TWP.
Center on the Hill
Flea Market & Bake Sale
Sat., Sept. 12, 9-1PM
Lunch & Bake Sale. Vendors welcome. To reserve a table 724-929-8636 or 724-929-3638.

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

5020/ARTICLES

TRAIN CLOCK- $10. Call 724-326-4543.

YARD SALE ITEMS- box. $20. Call 724-326-4543.

5035/BABY ITEMS

STROLLER- blue Eddie Bauer, $15; PACK 'N PLAY, blue, $15. Call 724-379-7384.

5040/BUILDING MATERIAL

VINYL SIDING CORNER tan, 10 foot long. FREE Call 724-379-5104.

5060/COMPUTERS

PHOTO printer Canon Pixma iP4000 like new $30.00. Call 724-483-2973.

SCANNER/printer/copier Lexmark X83, excellent condition $30. Call 724-483-2973.

5080/EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

ELIPTICAL IMAGE- 8.25 excellent condition. $150. Call 724-379-4576 or 724-263-2829.

TREADMILL good condition, $150.00 Call 724-929-3426.

5130/FURNITURE

DINING ROOM SET- table, chairs, china closet & server. Cherry wood. All pads included. Very good condition. 724-489-0241.

DINING ROOM SET- buffet, china hutch, table w/6 chairs & 3 boards, could sit 10-12 people. Solid wood, Thomasville. $700. Call 724-258-8645.

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER- 6' tall, 2 doors, oak finish. $40. Call 724-379-9547.

FOR SALE white kitchen table w/6 chairs $100; maple dresser w/chest of drawers, $175; 3 pc. Waterfall bedroom suit $75; white baker's rack $75; 5' walnut bar w/ glass rack & 5 wooden bar stools $500. Call 724-326-4050.

LIFT CHAIR good condition, $100.00 Call 724-929-3426.

MATCHING sofa & loveseat, floral pattern, great cond., $200 for both. 724-929-8746.

RECLINER- large, maroon. Good condition. Call 724-379-8026.

SOFA- large 90", blue denim $100; CHAIR- large 52", overstuffed, red $40. 724-684-9204

TWIN CAPTAIN'S BED, 3 drawers, shelf headboard. $100 or best offer. 724-797-3805 or 724-797-2589.

5150/HOME HEALTH CARE

WALKER with wheels, $5.00 Call 724-258-2395.

5205/TOOLS/HARDWARE

BOLTS AND NUTS- $8/flat. Call 724-684-8777.

5550/CATS

2 KITTENS- abandoned, very cute! Free to good homes. Call after 2pm, 724-684-6654.

2 KITTENS- adorable, litter trained. Free to good home. Call 724-518-6285.

CAT- spayed, orange, 1 yr., & white w/gray kitten, 6 mo. Free to good home. 724-314-3369.

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ASTRO ✦ GRAPH

Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
THURSDAY, SEPT. 10, 2009

VIRGO
August 23 through September 22

Chances are you have a valuable ally who has wanted to help you for a long time but never had the means. That opportunity might present itself to your friend who, true to his or her word, will come through in the year ahead.

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Even if returns aren't lavish, your material gains should bring some satisfaction. Keep expectations within reasonable bounds, and you won't be disappointed.

(Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- It's always smart to closely observe persons whose style and methods you admire. Not everything you learn will be easily adapted to your lifestyle, but much of it could.

(Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Put yourself out to gain the confidence of someone whose support you need, and you might even gain a new friend in the process. Be patient, and don't come on too strong.

(Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- An old friend might go out on a limb and offer some sage advice. Accept it graciously -- it could provide a brand-new perspective on something important.

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- If you believe aggression will achieve an important objective, it won't. The gains will collapse the moment your back is turned. Apply your smarts to think your way to success.

(Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Partaking in vigorous physical activity will get you out of that unshakable rut. Keep both your body and mind busy, and you won't have time to be sullen.

(Feb. 20-March 20) -- Something can be worked out to put an end to a negative situation that has been distressing you and your family. Implement this solution immediately; don't endure another minute of frustration.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- A change of venue or a change of routine could help satisfy your curious, restless mind. Get out and mingle with friends who generally operate within your social sphere.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- A couple of new ideas with regard to ways and means for adding income might cross your mind. Test them out to see if they would fit nicely into your field of operation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- If you're feeling a bit restless, contact a few fun-loving friends to see if tagging along will provide a change of mood. That could be just what you need.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Much to your surprise, someone you don't know well might approach you to discuss an intimate situation. You'll have the answers he or she needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Socializing with an intimate groups of friends will be more satisfying than mingling with the multitudes and merely being another face in the crowd. Spend your time with close pals whom you trust completely.

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SEPTEMBER
2009

Cultural Heritage Festival

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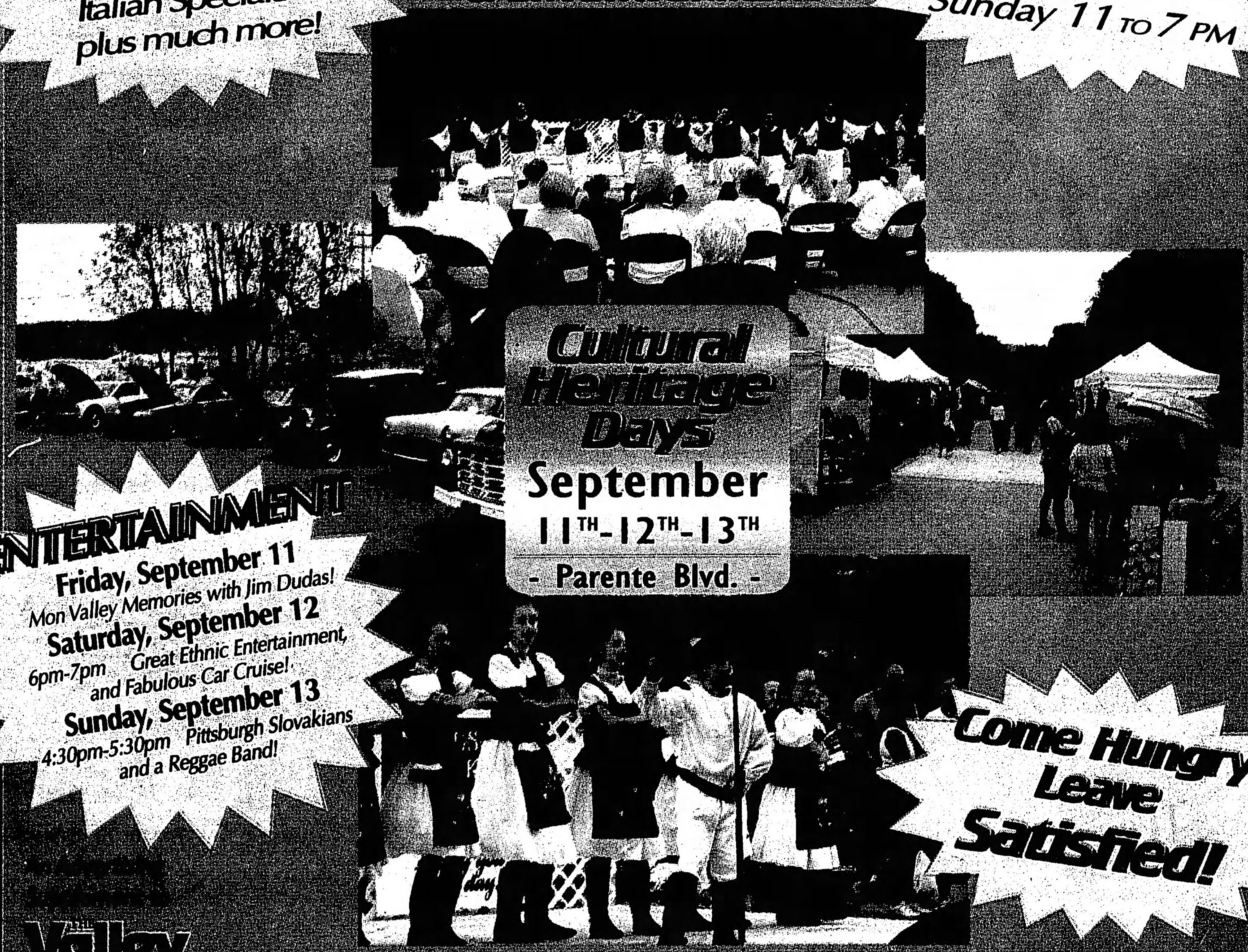
REAL ETHNIC FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Friday 4 TO 8 PM
Saturday 11 TO 8 PM
Sunday 11 TO 7 PM



Cultural Heritage Days

September
11TH-12TH-13TH
- Parente Blvd. -

ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, September 11
Mon Valley Memories with Jim Dudas!

Saturday, September 12
6pm-7pm Great Ethnic Entertainment, and Fabulous Car Cruise!

Sunday, September 13
4:30pm-5:30pm Pittsburgh Slovakians and a Reggae Band!

Come Hungry Leave Satisfied!

The Valley Independent

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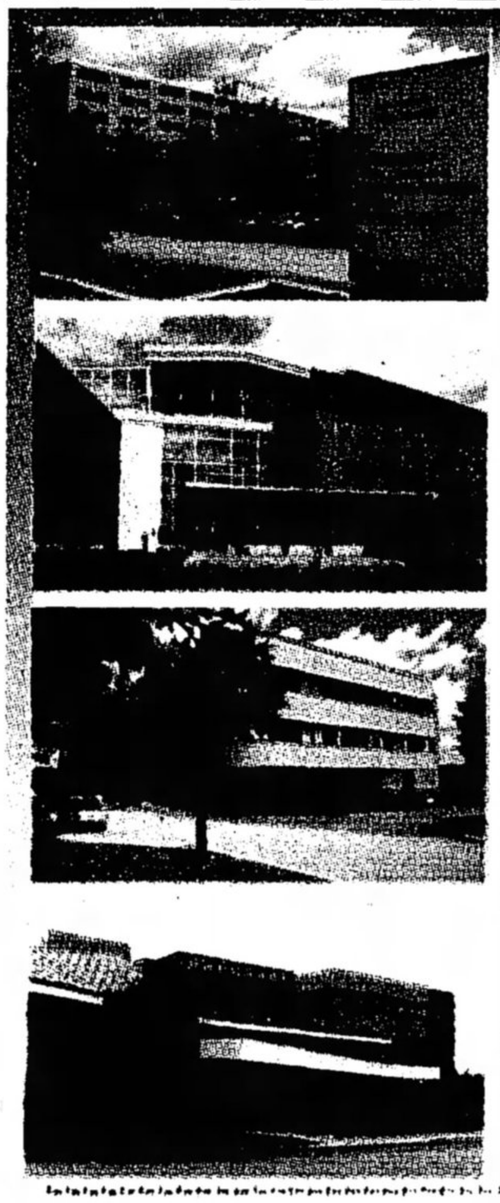
Ethnic entertainment is a tradition at the Cultural Heritage Festival. This year's event will take place this weekend on Parente Boulevard.



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What's new in Monessen?

By GARY BOATMAN
President, Greater Monessen Chamber of Commerce

Cultural Heritage Festival this weekend

For more than 40 years, Monessen has been celebrating our ethnic heritage with this festival.

There will be great ethnic food and entertainment. Many of our churches and non-profits will be providing great choices. This festival is the place to be this weekend. Hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

We would like to thank this years sponsors: *The Valley Independent,* First Federal Savings Bank, The Pumpkin Patch and Valley 1st Federal Credit Union. Without their help this festival could not be as exciting.

Bring your family and friends every day to enjoy our rich ethnic past. They will have fun, learn about our cultures and help local organizations.

See you at the festival!

Friday night entertainment

His participation in the annual Cultural Heritage Festival in Monessen will be a homecoming of sorts for Jim "J.D. the D.J." Dudas.

A native of Monessen and a 1966 graduate of Monessen High School, Dudas has built a solid following and strong reputation as the area's top disc jockey.

Earlier this year, he celebrated his 25th anniversary in broadcasting. But Dudas' work in the entertainment business as a disc jockey, radio show host and emcee for concerts traces it roots to his teenage years in the 1960s.

He began that career as a protege of legendary disc jockey Johnny Barbero at WESA in Charleroi and at Barbero's many record hops in the area. Dudas has credited Barbero for giving him his start in the business and being an inspiration and mentor.

He worked with Barbero at numerous venues, including the Love-In teen nightclub at Roscoe Fire Hall, where such top recording artists as Junior Walker and the All Stars and the Blossoms performed.

In March of 1983, Dudas made his debut on WESA with the "Mon Valley Memories" show he created.

It quickly became one of the most popular oldies shows on radio in the Pittsburgh region and scored well in the ratings.

Not only did Dudas spin the classic oldies known as "the Pittsburgh sound," he also presented the rare and hard-to-get songs that became hallmarks of his show. He featured live interviews with such special guests as Jimmy Beaumont of the Skyliners, the late Joe Rock, founder and manager of the Skyliners and other artists, the Jaggerz, Johnny Jack, Porky Chedwick and Pure Gold.

Barbero was often a guest disc jockey on the "Mon Valley Memories" show, which ran every Sunday and on special holidays.

It was during those early years at WESA that Dudas introduced what is now the most popular countdown show in the region. His countdown show, featuring the top songs of the past year as chosen by the listeners, continues with "Jim's Mon Valley Memories" show on WJPA (95.3 FM, 1450 AM) in Washington. He made the transition to WJPA in 2000 after WESA was sold and the station, in its then format, went off the air.

The show on WJPA, which runs from noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays, holds the highest rating in its time slot in the Pittsburgh area.

In addition to the regular Sunday program, which also features traditional and rare "Dudas sound" music, Dudas presents special shows on such holidays as Labor Day and the Fourth of July. His annual countdown is featured on New Year's Day and involves a 12-hour marathon of music and special contests for the listeners beginning at noon.

The countdown, still determined by J.D.'s listeners, is a Top 95 of favorite oldies, complemented by honorable mention selections.

Dudas also takes his talents on the road for oldies dances at clubs, fire halls and other sites in the region, as well as class reunions and other events.

On Feb. 16 of this year, he was the featured disc jockey for the celebration and dance marking the 50th anniversary of the start of the popular teen dances at the Stockdale Fire Hall. That event drew more than 1,100 people. Dudas will return to the Stockdale setting for a New Year's bash this year.

Dudas also has served as master of ceremonies for oldies concerts and shows throughout the area and has been showcased on the "Doo-Wop" series on WQED-TV.

Join Jim at cultural Heritage Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. See you there.

Saturday night entertainment

Saturday will feature performances from the Gate of Heaven mime group and the Light of the World gospel choir. Jerry Jumba and his orchestra will perform for three hours playing a mix of Slavic, Charpatho-Russian and other area songs. This group has played at foreign embassies in Washington, D,C., and was a crowd favorite four years ago.

The car show of the year in Monessen will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday. Bring your vehicle and compete for prizes.

Sunday entertainment

On Sunday, Monica Kramer will present a gospel concert at 1:30 p.m. Originally from Washington, Pa., Monica is now a Monessen resident. The Wisdom Band, a crowd favorite at a number of local spots, will play for four hours on Sunday. Stop by and enjoy a day of fun with your family and friends,

Great Ethnic Food

There will be lots of great ethnic food at the festival. This is the gyro event of the year in Monessen. For generations, people have been enjoying gyros at Cultural Heritage. We will have halupki, haluski, kielbasa with sauerkraut, ribs, wings, greens sweet potato pie, pulled pork, tacos, pizza and much more.

Come happy and leave satisfied. Support all our local organizations.

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Food booths lined Parente Boulevard in Monessen for the 2008 Cultural Heritage Festival. A wide variety of food will be available again this weekend.

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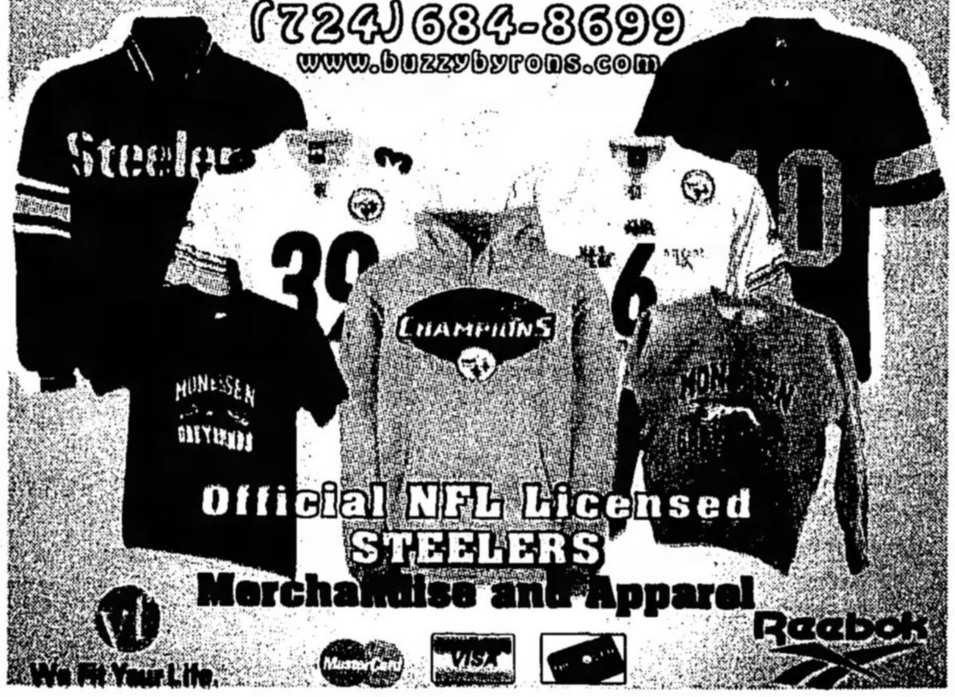

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VFD #1 plans food booth, car show

The Monessen Volunteer Fire Department #1 Auxiliary invites everyone to join them at the Monessen Cultural Heritage Festival this weekend.

The organization will be serving halupki, haluski and kielbasa with sauerkraut. Take some time this weekend to attend the festival. Whether you come to enjoy the entertainment, the good foods or just reminiscing with your friends and neighbors, they look forward to seeing you at the festival.

The Monessen Volunteer Fire Department #1 Auxiliary greatly appreciates your support.

The department is sponsoring a car cruise Friday, Sept. 11, and a car show Saturday, Sept, 12, at the Cultural Heritage Festival. The cruise will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. and the show from 2 to 6 p.m.. Show registration begins at 1 p.m. Awards will be determined by "Participant Choice Voting."

There will plenty of food and entertainment at the festival. Donation is $3 per car for the cruise and $5 per car for the show. Spectator admission is free. For more information, please contact Linda at (724) 797-0747.

Memories will abound at Historical Society tent

Visit the Greater Monessen Historical Society's tent at the Monessen Cultural Heritage Festival Sept. 11 to 13. The Heritage Museum will be closed Friday and Saturday during the festival.

There will be Monessen High School yearbooks and Hugo Parente photo albums to view. From the Museum Shoppe, there will be a selection of ethnic cookbooks for sale, as well as a historic photo CDs that can be used in a computer.

Membership applications will be available to become part of the Greater Monessen Historical Society. Pick up a free copy of the latest newsletter.

The "Old Monessen" Exhibit at the Heritage Museum, 505 Donner Ave., is winding down. If you have not had a chance to walk down memory lane, stop in before Sept. 19. The uniform from the old Manos Theatre has been especially popular.

The museum's next exhibit salutes the veterans of the greater Monessen area and will open in October. Bring in your photographs of veterans and wartime activities, as well as your military memorabilia.

The GMHS is also in need of photographs of Monessen school buildings and school activities. Please bring them to the Heritage Museum during regular operating hours, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. They will be scanned and returned to you.

Celebration held at the library

The Monessen Public Library and District Center celebrated its 50th anniversary Saturday, Aug. 22, with a birthday party at the library. Organizing the party was Susanna Swade, a member of the Monessen Library Board of Trustees. She was assisted by Janet Imbrescia and members of the Friends of the Monessen Public Library.

Those who participated in moving the books from the library's former address on Fifth Street in Monessen to its present location at 326 Donner Ave. were asked to sign a poster board commemorating the move. The poster board is still at the library, so if you weren't able to attend the party and would like to sign the board, you are welcome to do so.

Also, celebrating that evening were members of the Class of 1959 who held their reunion in the meeting room of the library.

DEC launches new Web site

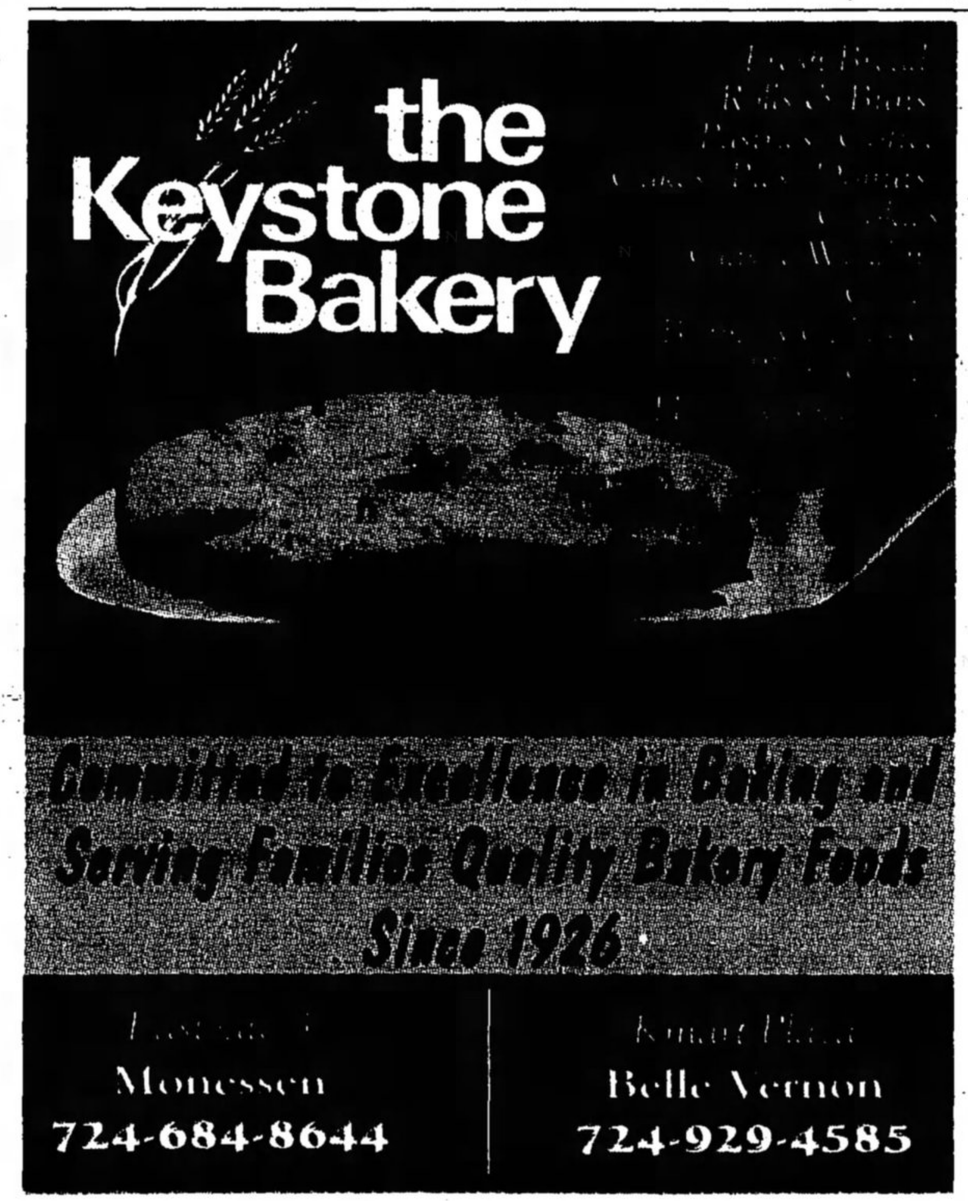
Launched last week, www.dec.edu, is an updated, modern approach to school Web sites. Its purpose is to serve potential students, their families, current students, alumni and anyone else who wants to enter the DEC world, a world truly like no other.

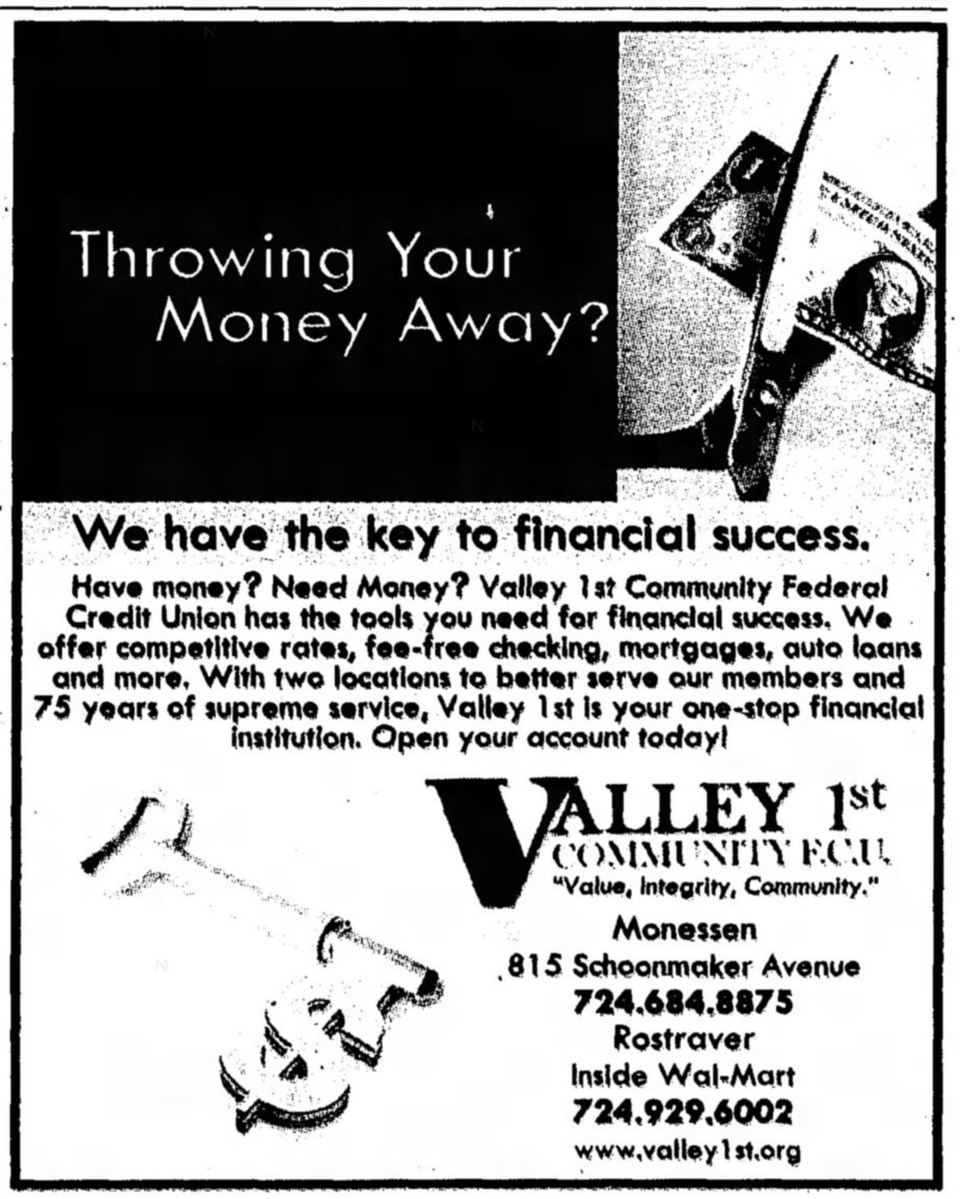
With 105 years of history, eight very different programs of study and students from all over the country and even the world, it's hard to put everything together into one compact site. But DEC thinks they've done it.

Visit the site and check out the student galleries that include work from all DEC's creative programs, including special make-up effects, film, graphic design, illustration, and cosmetology.

The site also offers an in-depth look at each program, social networking links, photos from DEC events and student activities, and information on financial aid, admissions procedures, and so much more.

Step into the world of DEC, a world of creative collaborations, passionate students, dedicated instructors, and real-world facilities.

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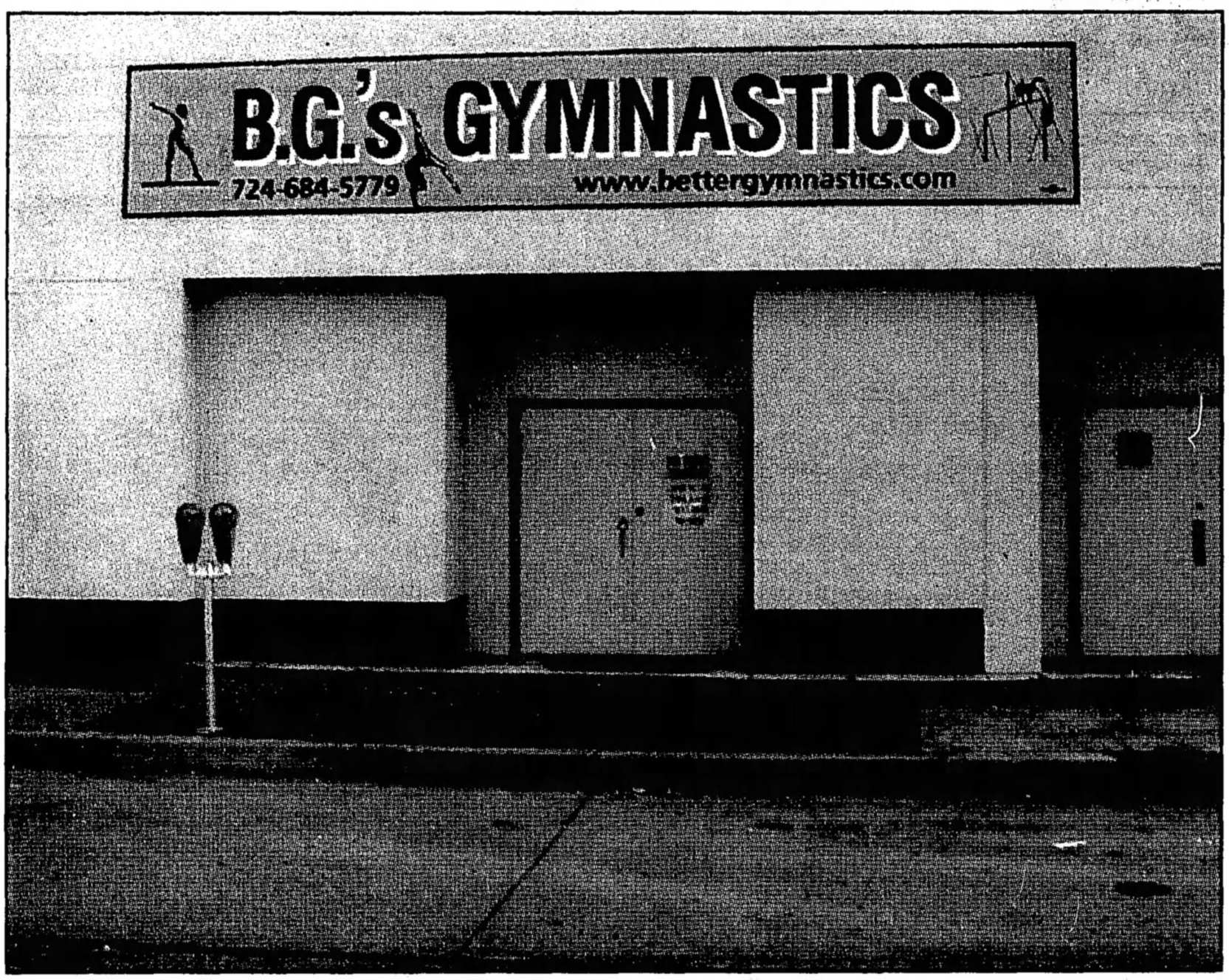

The B.G.'s Gymnastics building was first in line for a new facade program in Monessen. The makeover is nearly complete, and several other businesses are expected to follow.

New Monessen facade program

Thanks to the hard work of Mayor Anthony Petaccia, working with the Greater Monessen Chamber of Commerce, Monessen has started a new facade program for downtown businesses.

The first one is almost done at the B.G.'s Gymnastics building. Two others have already been approved and about six others are currently in the planning stages.

When this program is complete, Monessen will have a more exciting look. Thanks for all of your help over the last eight years, Mayor.

Middle Eastern dinner planned

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church will be having a Middle Eastern dinner Saturday, Oct. 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. The plate will consist of kibbee, a meat pie, grape leaves, Syrian rice with sauce, green beans and a salad. Baklawa will be the dessert, and coffee and tea will be served.

Ticket reservations are requested by calling Joan at (724) 483-8884 or Lora at (724) 344-0831.

'Getting Ahead' workshops set

The Monessen Circles will be starting a series of workshops titled "Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'- By World."

These workshops will be held weekly for 15 weeks.

Each workshop includes dinner and child care arrangements.

The first session begins Monday, Sept. 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the Dudas Building on 6th Street (Next to Nuzzaci Pizza).

These workshops offer a wonderful opportunity to investigate and identify the tools necessary for economic stability. To find out how you can participate in these workshops call (724) 684-5361, extension 30.

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The corn maze and the mechanical bull ride are popular attractions at the annual Harvest Festival.

Kick off October with the Harvest Festival

The annual Harvest Festival will take place Saturday, Oct. 3, and Sunday, Oct. 4, between 2 and 8 p.m. at The Giant Pumpkin Patch, located at the corner of Summit & Alexander in Monessen.

Each year, the American Medical Community Foundation hosts the Harvest Festival, a fall fundraiser for The Salvation Army. The Harvest Festival is family-oriented and always a lot of fun. Last year's event was a huge hit, and this year's is expected to be even bigger and better.

New additions to the Giant Pumpkin Patch are:

■ The Pirate Cove and Tropical Island: Climb aboard a real pirate ship, walk the plank and take a trip down the pirates' slide. Enjoy a Pirate Luau, Hunt for buried treasure and other piratey pleasures!

■ Fort Apache Western Fiesta: Join the cowboys as they mix things up with a western fiesta. Enjoy walking tacos and more fiesta fun!

■ The Pumpkin Arena: A newly constructed dome, perfect for enjoying all the entertainment.

Returning favorites will be:

■ The mechanical bucking rodeo bull.

■ The petting zoo and pony rides.

■ Crafts and games for the kids.

As always. there will be:

■ Delicious food and refreshments provided by Chef George and staff. This year we have included special treats such as deep fried Oreo and Twinkies.

■ Ride the on the wagon train.

■ Pumpkins for sale.

We hope you will join us for the celebration this year. For more information visit www.amcfinc.com, call (724) 684-4550 or e-mail amcfinc@comcast.net.

Since its formation, the American Medical Community Foundation has accomplished many worthy goals:

■ Through its two largest events, the Harvest Festival and Light Up Night, it has raised more than $100,000 for The Salvation Army to assist needy families throughout our area.

■ It has given adults in the Mon Valley the opportunity to work so they can pay their bills, buy food and clothing, and provide for their families.

■ It has given young people in the Mon Valley the opportunity to work and learn the value of money. They use the money they earn to buy school clothes and to pay for summer school.

■ Its volunteers assist the elderly throughout our community in many ways, including cutting grass and trimming hedges, free of charge.

■ It has helped families who have lost their homes to fire. The Foundation provided hotel costs for these individuals so they have a place to stay until they are able to find a new home. It also helped provide them with food, furniture and clothing.

■ During the Christmas season, the Foundation has donated many new toys to The Salvation Army, so that Christmas may be a little brighter for families who are struggling financially.

You can help the American Medical Community Foundation by attending the Harvest Festival.

57 EAST DONNER AVE, MONESSEN
FRANK'S
Service Garage, Inc.
724-684-9100
Oil & Filter Change
$23.95 Car/Minivan
INCLUDES:
• Engine oil replacement up to 5 qt.
• Complete chassis lube
• New Oil Filter
• Fluid level inspection
• Inspect CV joints and front suspension components
• Synthetic and Specialty Oils slightly higher
Wheel Balance &
Tire Rotation
$34.95
INCLUDES:
• Remove four wheels from vehicle; balance and rotate
• Special wheels; specialty vehicles slightly higher
Cooling System Service
$49.95 Drain/Replace
INCLUDES:
• Inspection of hoses & belts
• Antifreeze replacement (1-gal max)
• Pressure test system
• Diesel engine and additional parts/labor extra
• Vehicles requiring longer-life antifreeze or 2 or more gallons are higher
Body Shop
Collision
Repair
Paint
We accept Approved Personal Checks
Present Coupons At Time Of Order. Cannot be used With Other Discounts · Expires 10/31 2010

Come to the Harvest Festival at the

Giant Pumpkin Patch

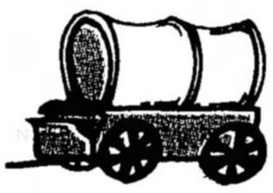
Located at the corner of Summit & Alexander in Monessen

Saturday, October 3, 2009 & Sunday, October 4, 2009
2:00 pm to 8:00 pm

It's Harvest Festival time again at the Giant Pumpkin Patch!
We've added many new features and attractions this year that you won't want to miss!
Visit the newly-constructed Pumpkin Arena to enjoy all the entertainment!
Walk the plank on the real-life Pirate Ship! ~ Visit the Tropical Island Pirate Luau!
Take part in the Western Fiesta at Fort Apache! ~ Ride the mechanical bull!

TAKE A TOUR!
Take a tour of the famous Giant Pumpkin Patch. Be sure to visit the Secret Garden!

WALK THE PLANK!
Walk the plank on the real-life Pirate Ship!



GO ON A WAGON TRAIN RIDE!
Go an on entertaining and enjoyable Wagon Train Ride through the Giant Pumpkin Patch neighborhood.

HAVE SOME REFRESHMENTS!
Hamburgers Hot Dogs Wing Dings
Baked Goods Drinks Homemade Fries
Walking Tacos Deep-Fried Oreos & Twinkies
Special Guests – Chef Gyro George & Staff!
Sample George's authentic Greek cuisine, including gyros, kabobs, sweet potato fries, and Greek pastries.

TAKE PART IN A TROPICAL ISLAND PIRATE LUAU!
The Pirates are having a Luau and you're invited!

ENJOY THE FIESTA!
Visit Fort Apache and join in the fun at the Western Fiesta!

DIG FOR BURIED TREASURE!
Grab a shovel and dig for buried treasure left behind by the pirates!

RIDE THE MECHANICAL BULL!
Enjoy the excitement of riding the mechanical bucking rodeo bull!

VISIT THE PETTING ZOO & PONY RIDES!
Visit with the baby farm animals at the petting zoo, and the little ones will love a ride on a gentle pony!

CRAFTS & PUMPKINS FOR SALE!
Small pumpkins will be available for sale, as well as crafts hand-made by local artisans. Also, some great items will be available at the Chinese Auction.

100% of all monies raised will be donated to the Mon Valley Salvation Army.

Shuttle service to and from the Giant Pumpkin Patch will be available in the parking lot of the Mon Valley Health Center. Shuttles will leave every 20 minutes.